

Thatcher and Heseltine at centre stage in Paris and London



Fingers crossed: Margaret Thatcher making a timely gesture yesterday at the Elyse Palace in Paris, where she was attending the signing of the arms treaty, while Michael Heseltine leaves his London home for a day on the campaign trail



Tory leadership race is now 'too close to call'

By ROBIN OAKLEY and PHILIP WEBSTER

THE overwhelming view among Conservative MPs last night was that today's contest between Margaret Thatcher and her challenger, Michael Heseltine, was too close to call.

As the two camps traded claims of their levels of support in the first serious challenge to Mrs Thatcher's leadership in 15 years, MPs were expecting one of two outcomes. Either there would be an inconclusive first ballot, which would raise questions about the wisdom of Mrs Thatcher continuing in the race, or

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she would win on the first ballot, but with Mr Heseltine gaining a substantial vote and with her authority impaired.

French chase John Barnes

Marseilles, the French football champions, have enquired as to the availability of John Barnes, the England and Liverpool forward. John Toshack, the Welsh coach of Real Madrid, has been dismissed. Page 36

Geography needs

The government's advisers on the national curriculum are urging it to streamline geography lessons to attain greater clarity and make the assessment of pupils easier. Teachers would need extra training and many schools would need new equipment, such as up-to-date atlases. Page 6

Maldives threat

The remote republic of the Maldives, whose 1,200 coral islands rise no more than 6ft, is fighting to save itself from vanishing beneath the ocean. Hussain Shihab, the director of environmental affairs said: "The world will have 200,000 environmental refugees on its hands". Page 9

Shamir defiant

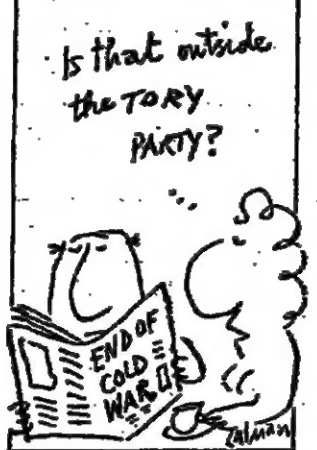
Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, has risked American anger by reasserting the need for Israel to maintain its hold on the occupied territories. Page 10

Ageing threat

Singapore - Populations in Asia are ageing much faster than in developed countries and could pose problems for the region by early next century. Paul Cheung, director of the health ministry's population planning unit, told a seminar here. (AFP)

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Last rites and fine burial for cold war

From MICHAEL BINYON IN PARIS

THEY came to bury the cold war, and yesterday's summit had all the feel of a working funeral. Margaret Thatcher wore black. President Mitterrand, leading the obsequies, was solemn to the point of lugubrious. Flags fluttered everywhere. Official corteges roared up and down the streets. World leaders ate with each other from noon till night.

In the general confusion, leaders, limousines, speeches, briefings, receptions, photo opportunities and corridor consultations became enmeshed in diplomatic traffic jams that even 10,000 police and an army of quarrelling journalists were unable to disentangle.

The Cold War, of course, was buried with all pomp and honour. The 34 mourners sat around a huge oval table, gazing at a cut-out map of North America and the Eurasian landmass. In the corner at a side table sat the lonely Albanians, invited to watch but not to join in the rites. Outside the chamber altogether were the loneliest representative of the three Baltic republics, who tried to funeral-barge but were told the ceremony was by invitation only. Two interpreters did manage to get in: Javier Pérez de Cuellar, representing a better world of universal peace, and Jacques Delors, who, at least for some, represented a nightmare vision of a federal Europe.

But it was farewell not only to the Cold War. Many presidents and prime ministers were wondering whether it was their last glimpse of some familiar faces. Would Mrs

Continued on page 28, col 5

Superpowers unite at CSCE to condemn Iraq

From MICHAEL BINYON AND MICHAEL EVANS IN PARIS

BOTH the American and Soviet presidents condemned Iraqi aggression yesterday as they joined the leaders of 20 other countries in signing a non-aggression declaration and an arms treaty that will reduce conventional weapons in Europe by almost a third.

President Bush said that human rights and the rule of law were being "grossly violated" in the Gulf. He called on all those who had signed the Helsinki accord on human rights to stand firm against the Iraqi abuses.

Speaking during the opening session of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), Mr Bush said: "Our success here can be neither profound nor enduring if the rule of law is

shamelessly disregarded elsewhere."

President Gorbachev also took the opportunity in his speech to the 34-nation summit to emphasise that the Soviet Union and the US stood united in condemning the Iraqi aggression. He said the Soviet Union would remain "firm and determined" in implementing the UN Security Council's resolutions.

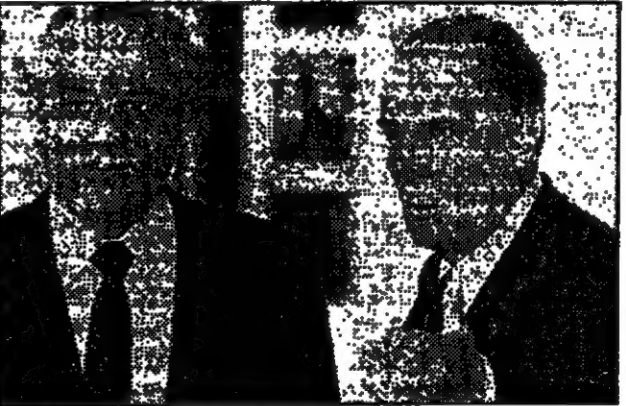
The common stand on Iraq yesterday underlined the new mood of co-operation that now exists between East and West on issues which used to create divisions. "Yesterday, after the initial arms treaty signing ceremony at the Elyse Palace, involving the 22 countries of Nato and the Warsaw Pact, the leaders of the two

alliances moved over to the Kleber Centre for the opening of the CSCE summit.

Mr Bush, with Iraq in mind, said the CSCE principles on human rights should not be confined to Europe - there should be no geographical limits. Margaret Thatcher said the 1975 Helsinki accord which stood at the heart of CSCE should be seen as a model for human rights in other parts of the world.

Although most of the speeches focused on the unprecedented changes in Europe and the expectations for continuing improvement in relations, Mr Gorbachev appealed for further arms cuts in the next round of conventional forces talks. Repeating a long-standing Soviet position, he said that naval forces should be included. He also said he was ready to start talks in about a month on reducing tactical nuclear weapons, based on the idea of "minimal deterrence".

His call for further arms cuts, however, was not echoed by Mrs Thatcher. She said: "We have made tremendous progress in reducing conventional forces in Europe ... But I don't think we should expect further dramatic reductions in forces. Security comes from knowing that you have a strong defence."



Mitterrand and Gorbachev, left, in Paris yesterday

Recession official and biting hard

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

EXTENSIVE proposed layoffs by the Rover car group and a decision by The Prudential, Britain's largest life insurance company, to sell its entire stock of 560 estate agents' offices yesterday confirmed City fears that Britain is now officially in recession.

Government figures showed the economy declined 1 per cent between the second and third quarters, its sharpest quarter on quarter fall since the last recession 10 years ago.

This negative growth, although mainly reflecting lower North Sea oil production, means this quarter should provide the second consecutive quarter of economic shrinkage to meet the standard definition of a recession.

Managers at Rover are planning to lay off 1,500 workers at Colve, Oxford, producing

the luxury 800 series, to avoid having to stockpile thousands of cars which have no buyers because of the economic slump. Production of the company's middle range Maestro and Montego models are so far unaffected.

The Prudential announced its decision after sustaining heavy losses in the last two years. As it moved towards achieving the position of biggest estate agent in the property boom, it paid heavily to buy the chains it needed, spending an estimated £200,000 a branch. After making £17.2m profit in 1988, the Pru's estate agency arm lost nearly £49m last year and reported losses of £23.7m in the first six months of this year.

Sharpest decline, page 21
Prudential losses, page 21

Saddam reinforces Kuwait troops

By ANDREW MC EWEEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IRAQ said yesterday it would increase its forces in Kuwait by 250,000 troops and claimed that the United States would need three million men in the Gulf before attempting an invasion.

The move reflected anger and alarm over the West's rejection of President Saddam Hussein's offer on Sunday to release the 2,000 foreign hostages in batches over three months from Christmas Day. The reinforcement, bringing Iraq's forces in Kuwait to about 600,000, was decided at a meeting between Mr Saddam and senior commanders. Baghdad is thought to suspect that a Western attack may be launched soon, perhaps before America's own forces are reinforced.

President Bush, Margaret Thatcher and Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, in Paris for the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, saw the hostage offer as a cynical ploy. "It just shows again that he regards these human beings as tools of his human shield policy", Mr Hurd said. Mrs Thatcher said the only way President Saddam could avoid war would be to withdraw quickly.

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British politics the best, but not so its youth

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

WHATEVER doubts there may be about the state of Britain's political leadership, they appear not to be shared by European businessmen. A survey carried out in five countries has found that British politics are the envy of France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

More than 500 businessmen from Britain and her four European partners were polled on a variety of subjects by academics at Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education. They were asked to name the top and bottom countries in everything from the arts to telecommunications, as well as the nationality most like themselves.

Apart from the French, who rated

themselves top in most categories, most of the businessmen placed Britain top both for political awareness and leadership. A college spokesman said: "I am quite sure they would have related the leadership question to Mrs Thatcher. There is no question that she has got a very big following in the business community."

The British were also rated highly in law, medicine and the arts; poorly in food, fashion and linguistic ability. There was general agreement that their youth was the worst behaved in Europe.

All nationalities, including the Italians, rated Italy bottom for political leadership. Continuing with established national stereotypes, the businessmen gave Italy top marks for art, architecture and fashion.

Overall, the Spanish fared least

well, scoring poorly in business, technical development, film and theatre, fashion, food and railways. The compilers of the survey put part of their poor rating down to ignorance abroad.

No one country came out top for the quality of life, but France and Germany both scored well. Each of the five countries considered its own literature to be the best.

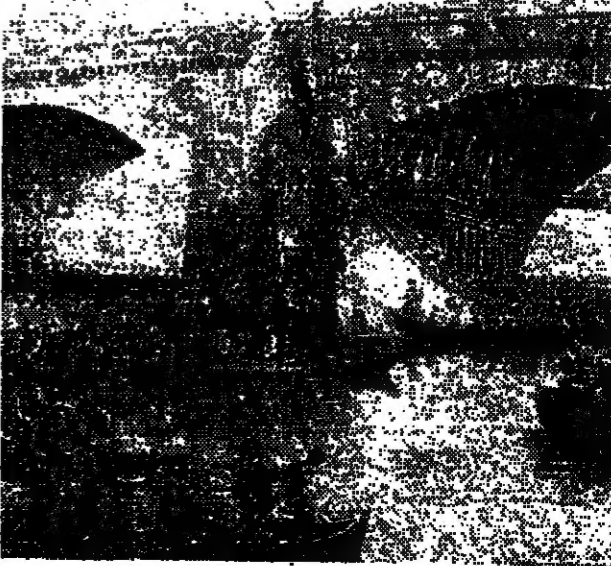
French film, fashion, food and railways were considered the best. Germany won out in business, technology, languages and education, as well as having the best-behaved youth.

The Germans joined both British men and women at the bottom of the fashion league. Germans were also considered the least artistic, but most committed to medicine and ecology,

and the best for industrial relations.

The survey was conducted early this summer among businessmen divided equally between the five countries. The college has extensive European links and David Baker, the member of staff responsible, is a member of the European market researchers' professional body, ESOMAR.

Britain's high political ratings appear to reflect grudging respect, rather than any sudden change of European identity. The French, Italians and Spanish all considered the British less like them than any of the other nationalities in the survey. The British considered the Germans most like themselves, but the compliment was not returned since the Germans identified most closely with the French.



A windmill near Appleton Roebuck, Yorkshire, as seen from the 12.57 York to Kings Cross.



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Hurd adds voice to call for change in rules

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, IN PARIS

MARGARET Thatcher predicted yesterday that she would be confirmed in her post as prime minister in the Conservative leadership election today as Douglas Hurd added his voice to those arguing that the party's election rules must be changed.

The foreign secretary indicated that he believed that today's election should be the last occasion on which an incumbent prime minister was subjected to the pressures of a vote by backbenchers. Mrs Thatcher's confident prediction that today's first round of voting would be enough for her to repulse Michael Heseltine's challenge came at the 34-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in Paris. She said: "I must earnestly believe that I shall be in No 10 Downing Street at the end of the week and a little longer than that. What makes me so confident? I think I have a marvellous team working for me and we are all very optimistic."

Her comments at a press conference at the British embassy came after the ceremony in which 22 Nato and Warsaw Pact countries signed the conventional forces in Europe agreement that ends the Soviet supremacy in tanks and guns on the Continent and marks the end of the Cold War.

Mrs Thatcher reminded backbench Tory waverers that



Hurd: political turbulence a distraction

it had been her government's determination in the face of the Soviet threat that had led to this "marvellous" deal. "I think we can claim that we have played a big part in it, first with the co-operation of President Reagan and then with President Bush, in staunchness on defence and in willingness and skill in negotiations."

Mr Hurd said that the prime minister could take a great deal of personal credit for ending the Cold War. The treaty "owed a great deal to the firmness which she and others have shown in resisting the unilateralist."

Mrs Thatcher denied that Mr Heseltine's challenge had placed her under strain in Paris as she sought to convey the impression of business as usual while fighting for her political survival at home. She admitted, however, that she would be glad when the election was over.

Earlier eyebrows were raised when she abruptly cut short a joint press conference with President Bush after a few minutes and after just one question on her domestic difficulties. She left the United States leader to field reporters' questions, but her aides maintained that she had had to leave early because she was

required at the signing ceremony earlier than the president.

Mr Hurd admitted that the "political turbulence" in London was a distraction to the business of the conference, but said that as a "professional" Mrs Thatcher was getting on with the job in hand. He confirmed that the telephone lines between Paris and London were buzzing with the latest intelligence on Mr Heseltine's challenge.

Mrs Thatcher was getting a "good deal of personal sympathy" from world leaders, the foreign secretary said. That was mingled with surprise that Tory party rules allowed a challenge to a sitting prime minister with a hat trick of election victories behind her.

"I think most people find that an odd arrangement. I must say that the longer we live with it, the odder I find it. It is a process designed for dealing with a party in opposition. It is very, very strange to see it being used to dislodge a prime minister. After it is all over, the party will want to consider that point. It is only when you get into it you realise what a strange notion it is."

Cransley Ouslow, chairman of the backbench Tory 1922 committee, has said that the leadership rules would have to be reviewed.

Mr Hurd said he shared the prime minister's confidence about the outcome of today's ballot of Conservative MPs. "I have a strong feeling that come Wednesday morning she will be back, and securely back, and we will be able to get on with our real jobs." His optimism was based on a personal hunch, "a certain pricking of the thumb" and "a good deal of telephoning."

The foreign secretary said he agreed with the prime minister that it would be the cruelest thing to depose her after three election victories. "Of course, it would be cruel. Politics are occasionally cruel. It would also be highly undesirable."

President Bush, while insisting he would not interfere with domestic British politics, made clear that he was not looking for a change of leadership in London. "I stay out of all this, but we have a superb relationship with Mrs Thatcher. It is indeed a special relationship," he said at a press conference at the US embassy.

Mr Hurd, mentioned as a possible second-round contender for the Tory leadership if Mrs Thatcher was knocked out in the first ballot, declined to be drawn on his position. He said he did not want to go beyond the joint statement he had issued with John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on Saturday in which they said they believed the issue would be resolved in Mrs Thatcher's favour in the first round.

Mrs Thatcher will be joined by Peter Morrison, her parliamentary private secretary, today. She will be at the British embassy tonight when the results come through from London at about 7.30pm local time. She is due to fly back to London at lunchtime on Wednesday after a meeting with President Gorbachev.

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Just passing through: Norman Tebbit seizes the opportunity to stage an impromptu press conference outside Michael Heseltine's home yesterday

Tebbit takes campaign to challenger's doorstep

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Tebbit took the prime minister's re-election campaign to Michael Heseltine's doorstep yesterday.

As Mr Heseltine's former ministerial colleagues lined up to question his recollection of the events that led to his resignation from the cabinet in January 1986, Mr Tebbit staged an impromptu press conference outside the former defence secretary's London home. The former party chairman, who lives near to Mr Heseltine, seized his opportunity as he returned home after giving a television interview.

During the interview, on BBC television's *On the Record* programme, he denied Mr Heseltine's allegation that the prime minister had read out to his faithful last cabinet meeting the conclusions of a meeting that had not taken place. Mr Tebbit,

one of Mrs Thatcher's campaign organisers, said that he had been puzzled by Mr Heseltine's claim. He was sure that the 22 people present would agree that this had not happened. Mrs Thatcher had read out a statement saying that future statements about the cabinet should be co-ordinated through the Cabinet Office. "It was that that Mr Heseltine found unacceptable because he could not accept collective cabinet responsibility."

Asked if he was accusing Mr Heseltine of being untruthful Mr Tebbit said: "I think his recollection is muddled. Mine is very clear and I have checked with others who were present."

Mr Tebbit added: "It's a very great pity Mr Heseltine should say what he did about the Westland affair. I feel it was particularly wounding because I

had made efforts to save Michael from resigning at that time."

The previous summer he had warned Mr Heseltine of problems facing the Westland helicopter company, but Mr Heseltine had told him: "That's your problem mate, not mine." Mr Heseltine had pointed out that the Ministry of Defence could buy helicopters from many foreign suppliers if Westland collapsed.

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, who was chief whip at the time, has also said that Mr Heseltine's recollection of those events is faulty.

Mr Heseltine has said that five weeks before he resigned, he warned the prime minister that he would step down if he was denied his constitutional right as the defence secretary to put his case about Westland Helicopters to the cabinet. "She read out

the conclusions of a meeting, of a discussion, which had not taken place," Mr Heseltine said.

Mr Heseltine repeated his charge in an interview with *The Times* (see page 2) yesterday. He said that the cabinet had been precluded from discussing the issue. Mrs Thatcher had read from a document that had been prepared before the cabinet meeting in drawing the meeting to a close.

"What was said was unacceptable to me because it was to close the option of an examination by the cabinet of the European solution for Westland," he said.

Mr Heseltine reiterated that five weeks before the meeting he had given the clearest possible indication that if the cabinet were not allowed to examine the matter he would not remain a member of it.

Options facing Thatcher if she loses the ballot

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IN her thirty-eight years on the throne, the Queen has accepted the resignation of seven prime ministers for reasons ranging from ill health and electoral defeat to retirement.

If Michael Heseltine wins an outright victory on the first ballot, he becomes leader of the Conservative party but he will not automatically become prime minister. Having lost the support of her parliamentary colleagues, it is expected that Margaret Thatcher would go to Buckingham Palace to tender her resignation. As the parliamentary party would have chosen a successor, the Queen would send for Mr Heseltine and ask him to form a government.

Two other, though unlikely options, could be tried by Mrs Thatcher in an effort to retain power, according to one political scientist. Even though she would have lost the support of a majority of her Conservative colleagues, Mrs Thatcher could go to the House of Commons to try to secure a majority for her government or she could request the Queen to dissolve Parliament and call a general election.

Denis Kavanagh, professor of politics at Nottingham university, said: "I find it inconceivable that Mrs Thatcher would take either option as they would cause a serious constitutional clash."

In the event of the prime

minister failing to win an outright victory on the first ballot and subsequently deciding not to enter the second round, it is likely that she would inform the Queen of her intention to resign as soon as the party had completed the necessary procedures for electing a successor.

Professor Kavanagh said that if Mrs Thatcher lost the Conservative leadership contest and resigned as prime minister, the circumstances facing the Queen would be similar in some, but not all aspects, to those facing the monarch after Harold Wilson's departure from office 14 years ago.

The key difference between 1990 and 1976 was that Labour's leadership contest was triggered by Mr Wilson's decision to retire voluntarily, whereas if Mrs Thatcher quits, she will have been forced to do so by parliamentary colleagues.

In 1976, Mr Wilson remained prime minister from March 16, when he announced his intention to resign, until April 5 when James Callaghan beat Michael Foot in the contest for the Labour leadership in a third ballot.

On that day, Mr Wilson went to Buckingham Palace to formally tender his resignation and he was followed within two hours by Mr Callaghan who received the Queen's commission to form a government.

Labour query on royal role

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

LABOUR backbenchers with no part to play in the Conservative leadership contest yesterday sought to ascertain the Queen's constitutional position.

Their points of order in the Commons and of the Queen were turned aside by the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, who said: "It is certainly not a matter for me." Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Workington, asked whether, in the event of the dismissal of a prime minister, the House

would be required to divide at any time. Mr Weatherill told him that he could not answer a hypothetical question.

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover and expert on parliamentary procedure, suggested that whatever the outcome of today's ballot, Mrs Thatcher could still carry out her duties as prime minister. She might, he suggested, even force the cabinet into reconsidering the whole affair. The matter might eventually be one for the Queen.

Tony Banks (Newham

North-west) complained that Bernard Ingham, the prime minister's press secretary and a civil servant, far from being impartial, was being used by the prime minister to give press briefings denigrating Michael Heseltine. Mr Weatherill told him: "I understand Mr Bernard Ingham has been giving press briefings for about 10 years."

David Winnick (Walsall North) said that the question of the next prime minister was entirely one for her Majesty to decide.

Mr Ridley suggested that the single currency would be a suitable subject for either a referendum or approval as part of a general election manifesto. Even if Mr Heseltine got more than 100 votes Mrs Thatcher should adopt the same posture as she did at the Rome summit. "There is no halfway house between joining a single currency and not joining it," he said. "If Mr Heseltine ever were to be prime minister and were to seek to join a single currency, he would lose among 60 per cent to 70 per cent of the Conservative party in the House of Commons and probably the same sort of proportion in the country."

Currency vote 'a short-term tactic'

By JAMIE DETTMER

MARGARET Thatcher's sudden mention of the possibility of a referendum on a single European currency was seen at Westminster yesterday as a short-term tactic for the prime minister to outflank opponents in her party.

Mrs Thatcher has not been a notable proponent of referendums. Like most Tory MPs in 1975, she followed with no great passion the Conservative line that a referendum on Common Market membership was right and proper because of the high constitutional importance of the issue.

Her advocacy in an interview in last weekend's *Sunday Telegraph* of a referendum over a single currency is seen as part of a tactic to appeal over the heads of cabinet colleagues to an electorate she believes is opposed to economic union.

Mrs Thatcher is not the first British leader to want to use a referendum as an escape from party divisions. Harold Wilson was eventually persuaded to back the idea of a referendum on the European Community because he could use it as a popular measure to attack the Conservative government while at the same

time heading off a damaging split within his own party. The 1975 vote on the Common Market was Britain's first national referendum and there have been three provincial referendums. In 1973 the border poll in Northern Ireland to establish whether Ulster wanted to remain in the United Kingdom was undermined by a nationalist boycott. In 1979 Wales and Scotland voted on whether they wanted devolution. The Welsh voted against devolution but the Scots majority for devolution failed to gain the required percentage.

Politicians in Britain have generally been opposed to referendums because they believe it is the responsibility of parliament to make decisions and for the people to make their views known by how they vote in general elections. Supporters of referendums argue that people vote for a party on a wide range of issues and do not give a mandate for just one.

Dr Vernon Bogdanor, Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, said: "It is rather like a jury being told that it can only convict on all counts rather than on just one or two. There are strong arguments for hav-

ing referendums on issues concerning the transfer of sovereignty. You could say that power is delegated by the people to government but not delegated to be given away."

Referendums are more common in dozens of countries. Australia has had more than 40 on constitutional issues since the turn of the century. The Australian electorate tends to vote for the status quo and only eight referendums have been passed.

While Australian referendums are restricted to questions of constitutional change,

referendums in several other countries are called on matters of public interest. Italy has had dozens, on hunting, divorce and abortion. Again the tendency is for the status quo. Only the referendum on divorce managed to struggle through.

Several liberal British politicians have been concerned about the use of referendums because of their fear that progressive ideas will not be backed. In his resignation letter as deputy leader of the Labour party, Roy Jenkins described referendums as a "powerful continuing weapon against progressive legislation". He continued: "I would not fancy the chances, to take a few random but important examples, of many measures to improve race relations, or to extend public ownership, or to advance the right of individual dissent." However, referendums in California on progressive issues have frequently found favour.

Mrs Thatcher should, however, be wary of banking too much on a referendum. General de Gaulle had to resign in 1969 after a referendum on a constitutional amendment went against him.



Jenkins: Referendums a weapon against progress

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Streamlining of proposed geography lessons urged

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE government's advisers on the national curriculum are urging it to streamline proposed geography lessons to attain greater clarity and make the assessment of pupils easier.

The National Curriculum Council says that the proposed format is too cumbersome and repetitive. In its final advice to Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, the council suggests cutting the seven attainment targets and programmes of study to five, and the 269 statements of attainment to 211.

Duncan Graham, the council's chairman and chief executive, said: "There was an enormous amount of overlapping, asking the same questions in slightly different form. Putting them together has resulted in greater rigour and clarity. Our proposals are simpler and more understandable and will make assessment easier and less burdensome."

The council also said that for geography to be taught successfully teachers would need extra training, and many primary schools and some secondary schools would need new equipment, such as up-to-date atlases.

After consultation, the council also recommended that combined GCSEs should be available linking geography with, for example, history or economics. Children not taking geography at GCSE should continue to study all the attainment targets but in a reduced number of areas.

The five attainment targets for children aged 5 to 16 will be geographical skills, knowledge and understanding of places, physical geography, human geography, and environmental geography. Three of the original seven attainment targets, the home area and region, the United Kingdom within the European Community, and the wider world have been combined under the knowledge and understanding of places.

In other proposed changes designed to reduce the burden on schools, the council said that at 14 it was not necessary to study a

Four stages of learning mapped out

What pupils will be expected to know will include:

At seven years old: children should be able to talk about a familiar place, identify activities carried out by people in the local area, recognise rocks, soil and water, explain that buildings are used for different purposes and identify and name materials that are obtained from natural resources.

At 11: they should be able to use geographical vocabulary to talk about places, make a plan of a real or imaginary place, name the countries of the United Kingdom, recognise seasonal weather patterns, identify how goods and services in the local community are provided, and describe ways in which people have changed the environment.

At 14: they should be able to interpret relief maps, use maps to plan routes and measure distances, describe the geographical features of a country in the European Community, describe a river basin, analyse the causes and effects of recent large-scale migration and analyse the environmental impact of the development of two energy sources.

At 16: they should be able to select diagrams to present complex geographical information and ideas, evaluate ways in which local and national government have attempted to stimulate and control the development of a region, examine international strategies for improving the quality of life, and critically examine the conflicts that can arise between expectations of continually rising standards of living and the need to conserve and sustain the environment.

prosperous region outside the European community in addition to a study of the Soviet Union, the United States, and Japan. The new proposals underline, however, the importance of economics in geography, recommending that at age 11 children study an economically developing country rather than a tropical country, changing the emphasis "from climatic to economic development".

The council also warned teachers: "Some aspects of geography are potentially controversial and cannot avoid dealing with attitudes and beliefs."

"Pupils need to develop their own attitudes rationally and understand why other people may hold different views."

The original proposals, from a working party chaired by Sir Leslie Fielding, vice-chancellor of Sussex University, did not allow children to enhance their learning and understanding sufficiently as "an increase in factual knowledge does not constitute progression", the council said.

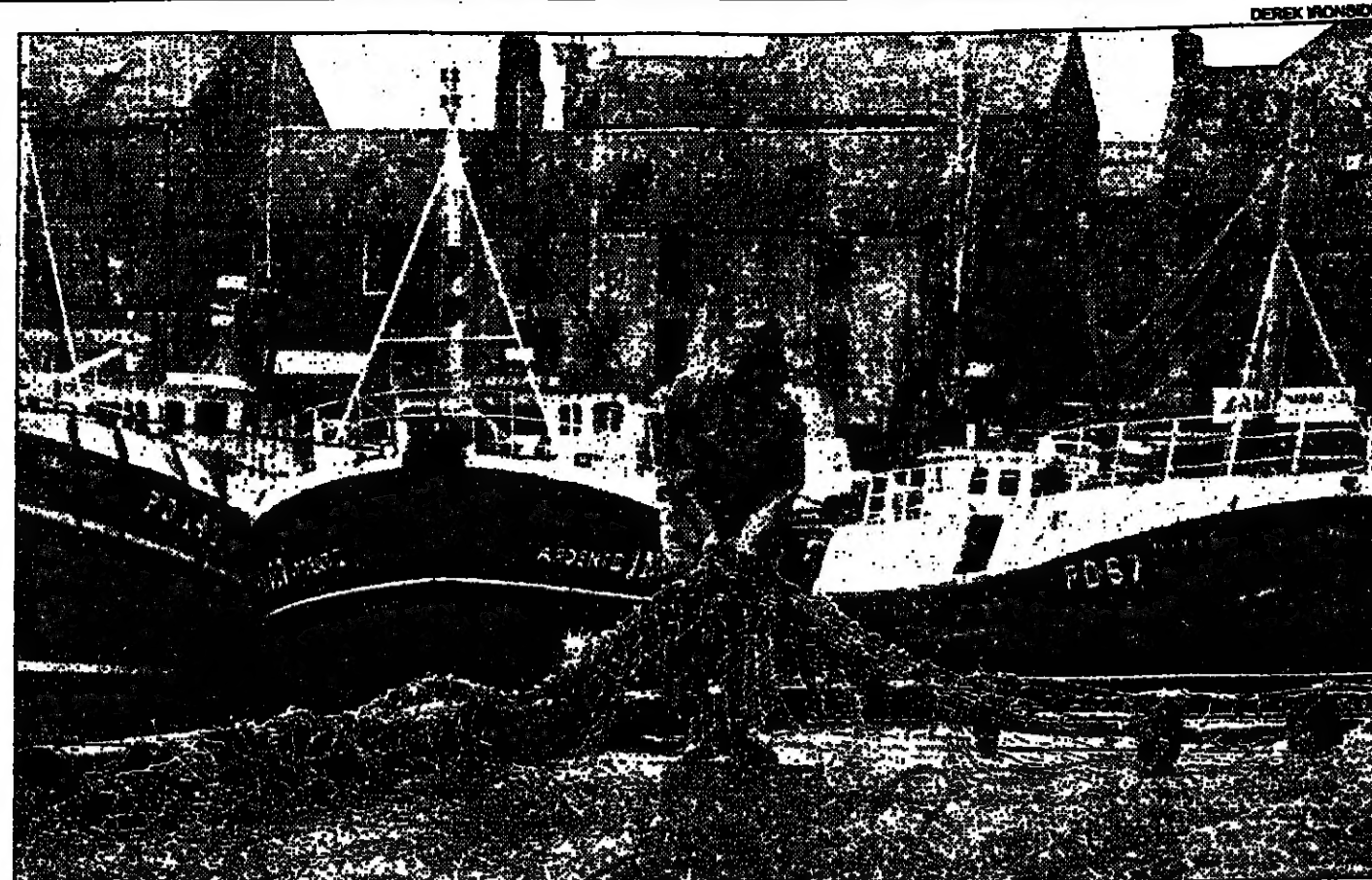
Programmes of study have been amended to allow children to progress from the study of a small area to regions and whole countries, from understanding about their own environment to areas outside their experience, from simple issues to complex issues, and from observing features to explaining them.

Mr Clarke will announce his decision on the proposals in the new year.

□ POLICE participation in teaching children how to be good citizens is of the greatest importance, the National Curriculum Council said yesterday, although in the past some schools have refused to invite the police to talk to pupils.

In its latest advice to schools, the council said: "The contribution of the police service is of the greatest importance, especially the involvement of the school community liaison officers in lessons and extra-curricular activities."

Duncan Graham, the council's chairman and chief executive, said: "Education for citizenship is essential for every pupil. It helps each of them to understand the duties, responsibilities and rights of every citizen and promotes concern for the values by which a civilised society is identified - justice, democracy, and respect for the rule of law."



Net return: a fisherman mending nets at the harbour in Peterhead, where one person in four is directly employed in the industry

Drastic action needed to save fish stocks

BRITISH fishermen say their livelihood is threatened by proposals to conserve rapidly dwindling stocks of North Sea cod and haddock which David Curry, the fisheries minister, will discuss with his European Community counterparts in Brussels today.

Four successive years of cuts in the catch quotas allocated to EC member states under the common fisheries policy have failed to prevent stocks of the two species from falling to levels that scientists fear might put them beyond recovery unless further action is taken.

Bob Allan, chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, which depends on cod, haddock and whiting for 60 per cent of its white fish catch, does not dispute the need for conservation but says the measures proposed by the European Commission are so severe they would decimate the industry.

Smaller catches have been largely offset by higher prices - the price of haddock is 42 per cent up on last year - but fishermen say their profits have been eaten up by rising diesel fuel costs. "We cannot rely on the housewife to go on paying ever higher prices for her fish," Mr Allan says.

Spawning stocks of North Sea cod will be no more than 78,000 tonnes next year, compared with 168,000 tonnes in 1982, according to data collected by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, in Copenhagen.

Four years of cuts in European fishing quotas have failed to prevent stocks of cod and haddock from falling to levels that may put them beyond recovery, Michael Hornsby reports

hagen. The spawning stock of haddock has fallen even more steeply, from 285,000 tonnes to an estimated 81,000 tonnes. Haddock and cod spawn when three and four years old respectively but only once a year. Of the tens of thousands of eggs laid by each fish, only a few survive. Fishing pressure on the stock can be more than offset by a good survival rate, as seems to have happened in the early Eighties. From 1987, however, the supply of new cod and haddock has been exceptionally low, for reasons that are poorly understood.

Early signals suggest that haddock numbers may pick up again in 1992 but the outlook for cod remains poor. The exploration council's advisory committee on fisheries management, which meets every year to assess fish stocks, has recommended a 30 per cent cut next year in fishing for cod, haddock and whiting on top of a similar cut this year.

Manuel Marin, the European fisheries commissioner, believes that catch quotas have not worked and is proposing that the mesh size of fishing nets increased from 90mm to 120mm to

allow immature fish to escape. Señor Marin wants the upper half of the net to be constructed of square mesh instead of the standard diamond-shaped variety that tends to close up as the net fills, allowing few fish to get out.

There is general agreement that the 90mm nets catch too many small fish that cannot be sold because they are below the minimum landing size. They are thrown back into the sea, by which time they are usually dead. Up to half of the catch can consist of such discards.

Part of the problem is that the same net is used to catch a variety of fish. A mesh size that catches only mature haddock also scoops up immature cod, which are bigger.

Fishermen protest that Señor Marin's 120mm net would allow so many fish to escape that it would no longer be worth their while to put to sea.

Tom Hay, the vice-chairman of the Scottish White Fish Producers' Association, which is based in Peterhead, where one in four people are directly employed in the fishing industry, says: "If they try to force us to use the 120mm

net I am afraid many skippers will break the law."

Sea trials conducted by the Sea Fish Industry Authority in Edinburgh and the Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen indicate that the 120mm net would all but eliminate the wasteful killing of small fish but allow large numbers of mature fish to escape. Only eight haddock of marketable size were caught in the 120mm net against 693 in the 90mm net.

Research by the Sea Fish Industry Authority suggests that the percentage of undersize fish caught in the standard diamond-mesh 90mm nets could be significantly reduced simply by including a square-mesh panel in the upper part of the net.

Señor Marin remains adamant that the 120mm net is necessary if the stocks are to be saved. Mr Curry agrees that "the status quo is unsustainable" but says mesh-size adjustment alone is not the answer and will have to be combined with traditional controls.

The government is reluctant to face a simpler fact: there are too many fishing vessels chasing too few fish. In 1986 Britain, along with other member states, promised to reduce its fishing fleet by 3 per cent by 1991. Instead, the British fleet has been allowed to expand by 20 per cent while the supply of fish has been falling, and now has an estimated overcapacity of 40 per cent. Paying fishermen to scrap or lay up their boats may be unavoidable.

Council and duke in battle over a matter of class

By ROBIN YOUNG

WESTMINSTER city council and the Duke of Westminster commence legal battle at the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand this morning over their rights to house Westminster's working classes, if, indeed, such people still exist.

The dispute to be heard in the High Court concerns 532 flats designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens on the Page Street estate in Millbank, in the southeast of Westminster. The council was assigned a 999-year lease on the flats by the then Duke of Westminster in 1937 on condition that they be used as "dwellings for the working classes... and for no other purpose".

Conservative-run Westminster council, whose leader is the controversial Lady Porter, wants that condition set aside so that the flats can be included in its "designated sales" policy, under which council homes can be offered for sale to anyone living or working in the council area.

The present duke, the wealthiest man in Britain, refused to withdraw the clause in the lease after appeals by Westminster's Labour councillors. The trustees of the duke's Grosvenor Estate agreed that the council should be allowed to sell 10 per cent of the flats under the designated sales policy, but insisted that the rest remain available as low-cost rented accommodation.

The council is now seeking to have the condition in the lease set aside, arguing that the term "working classes" has no meaning in contemporary society. A precedent to be cited for the council was set 35 years ago by Lord Denning, later to become Master of the Rolls, who, in a case involving rooms in Chelsea belonging to the Guinness Trust, declared that the phrase "working class" was "ineffable".

A council spokesman denied Labour accusations that the designated sales policy was being used to change the balance of the electorate in marginal wards, or indeed that purchasers were anything other than "working class".

Aids virus infects 10,000 heterosexuals

At least 10,000 heterosexuals in Britain are infected with HIV, the virus that causes Aids, and most are unaware that they are carriers, the government's chief medical officer said yesterday.

Sir Donald Acheson told a seminar of HIV prevention specialists in London that the carriers were unlikely to show symptoms and could infect others sexually for up to ten years until they developed Aids.

He said the figure was a conservative estimate, and only about 3,000 men and women were believed to have been infected through sexual contact. The rest had acquired it through intravenous drug abuse or treatment for haemophilia.

New evidence

The first day of the resumed inquest into the Hillsborough disaster in Sheffield was told evidence would be heard that was not available to the Taylor enquiry into the 95 deaths.

Inmates escape

A Home Office enquiry was launched yesterday after three inmates cut through the bars of their cell and used scaffolding left by workmen to escape from Oxford jail. Two were later recaptured but Roberto Ayta, on remand, is still at large.

Gunman jailed

Wayne Shaw, aged 30, of Little Hulton, Greater Manchester was jailed for 15 years by Manchester crown court for 12 charges of kidnapping, hijacking or attempting to snatch cars at gunpoint and robbery in September 1989.

Level pegging

The Soviet Union and England each have 6½ points from eight after the second round of the chess olympics in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia.

Work preferred to brave new world of early retirement

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE new technology dream in which computers, robots and visual display units would transform the uneasy prospects of early retirement into a brave new labour-free world of fulfilment through unlimited choice of leisure activities has come to nothing for millions of people in Britain.

Ten years after Clive Jenkins, one time enfant terrible of the labour scene, wrote that the great problem would be to safeguard people from the boredom of leisure time, his prophecy has come true in a way he may not have imagined and thousands of people say they want to work until they are 70 or even older.

The so-called "demographic time bomb" of a falling population, a growing awareness among women of their worth in society, economic realities, and pressure on Parliament led from Europe has ensured growing equality among the sexes in the workplace. According to Jenkins, the pressures of modern survival are now leading us into a post-industrial New Dark Age.

The case in which Barclays Bank has agreed to pay 12 women compensation of £160,000 for not being allowed to work until they are 65 (as their male colleagues could), was unusual in that most firms have now agreed to comply

with the 1986 Sex Discrimination Act, which allows women to share the same work burden as men. The government and British firms have been forced into equality by a European Court decision that there must be no difference in retirement age.

For years trade unions have been pressing for the retirement age to be reduced to 60 with no loss in benefits or pensions. However, to the chagrin of TUC leaders, the government and businesses have decided that equality means that women also have the

right to work until 65. The government is very reluctant to reduce the age to 60 as it is estimated that this would cost the country at least £3 billion a year in terms of state pensions.

Sally Greengross, director of Age Concern England, who will tomorrow be given the United Kingdom Woman of Europe award, is convinced that because older people are now healthier and more alert they want to continue with their working lives. "They feel they have real experience and would like the option of working until they are 70. With fewer young people available for the workforce the argument is even stronger."

The TUC said: "Although our policy is for people to retire at 60 the reality is that many are forced to continue working because of the low level of the state and occupational pensions."

Managers, it appears, are not in this category. A survey by KPMG Peat Marwick Management Consultants and the Institute of Personnel Management, however, shows that only 14 per cent of managers wanted to retire between the ages of 61 and 65, compared with nearly 70 per cent who would like to retire between 51 and 60.



Sally Greengross: people want to work longer

Leading article, page 13

The essential nouveau banana taste

By ROBIN YOUNG

STUDYING this year's newspaper reviews of the 1990 Beaujolais nouveau will have left wine drinkers in serious doubt as to just what they were drinking.

Jane MacQuitty, *The Times* wine correspondent, chose as her winning wine the "stunning" Maurice Chenu Beaujolais Nouveau sold by Saffway at £2.99. It stood out, she wrote, "like a beacon - head and shoulders above the competition". Andrew Barr in *The Sunday Correspondent* placed that wine bottom of the 12 he tasted. "Banana essence", he noted. "I prefer wine."

The wine which Mr Barr thought "in a class of its own", by Joseph Drouhin, Miss MacQuitty thought acceptable, but lacking zest. A panel for *The Independent* was harsher about Mr Barr's choice, leaving it to languish without further comment among the "also tasters".

The Independent's second three-star wine, the Cave de Bully from Waitrose at £3.29, Miss MacQuitty rated "borderline". Miss MacQuitty was disinclined to revise her opinions yesterday. "Tasting panels always come up with widely differing opinions," she said. "Top placings often go to the ordinary or mediocre."

Detective denies blackmail

THE detective accused of masterminding a £3.75 million blackmail scheme by putting poisoned baby food and tins of dog food on supermarket shelves yesterday denied that he was responsible.

After the prosecution case finished at the Old Bailey yesterday in the seventh week of the trial, Rodney Whitchelo, of Hornchurch, Essex, denied being the blackmailer or writing blackmail demands sent to Heinz and Pedigree Pet Foods. He also denied getting anyone else to write them.

Asked by his counsel, Rock Tansey: "Did you contaminate Heinz or Pedigree Pet Food products?", he replied: "Absolutely not". He also denied placing any of the contaminated products in supermarkets or getting anyone else to do so.

Mr Whitchelo, aged 43, a former detective sergeant in the regional crime squad, agreed that when he was arrested he had told officers: "I am innocent. I know what this is about but I am innocent." Later, at the police station, he had told a senior officer: "My main source of comfort is that I am innocent."

Mr Whitchelo denies 18 charges including blackmail, making a threat to kill and contaminating food products.

The trial continues today.

THE INSIDE TORY

Don't miss the fullest in-depth analysis of the Conservative leadership ballot on Channel 4 News at 7.00 p.m.

REMEMBER WHERE YOU HEARD IT.

4

Vicar faces church charge of conduct unbecoming

By PAUL WILKINSON

ONE of the Church of England's more arcane rituals begins this morning in a nondescript church hall in Gloucestershire. For the next three weeks a parish priest defends his reputation against a charge more usually associated with the military officers "conduct unbecoming".

The Rev Tom Tyler, for 12 years vicar of Henfield, West Sussex, is accused of outraging ecclesiastical dignity by conducting a ten-year extra-marital affair with a parishioner. He also faces charges over another parishioner.

His vehement denial of the complaints has led to the rare convening of a consistory court to deal with a charge of conduct unbecoming a clerk in holy orders, which has been prosecuted only once before in the church's history. A verdict against him could mean the loss of his job and home.

Mr Tyler, aged 50, who is married with four children, has been suspended since March while the Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Rev Eric Kemp, considered what course of action to take.

The hearing might not last the predicted three weeks but officials from the Gloucester diocese are expecting lengthy legal wrangling before the

decision is reached. The only other time the charge was brought was in 1969 when a Gloucestershire vicar was accused of being bad tempered to parishioners, refusing individuals communion, cancelling services and failing to carry out baptisms.

In spite of having Sir Geoffrey Howe, the former deputy prime minister, as his barrister, the court found against him. The decision, however, was reversed on appeal to the Court of Arches, and he was able to continue working until his death two years ago.

A consistory court has a status more akin to a court martial dealing with disciplinary measures than criminal hearings, although rules of procedure and evidence mirror them. It is more usually convened to consider problems of administration.

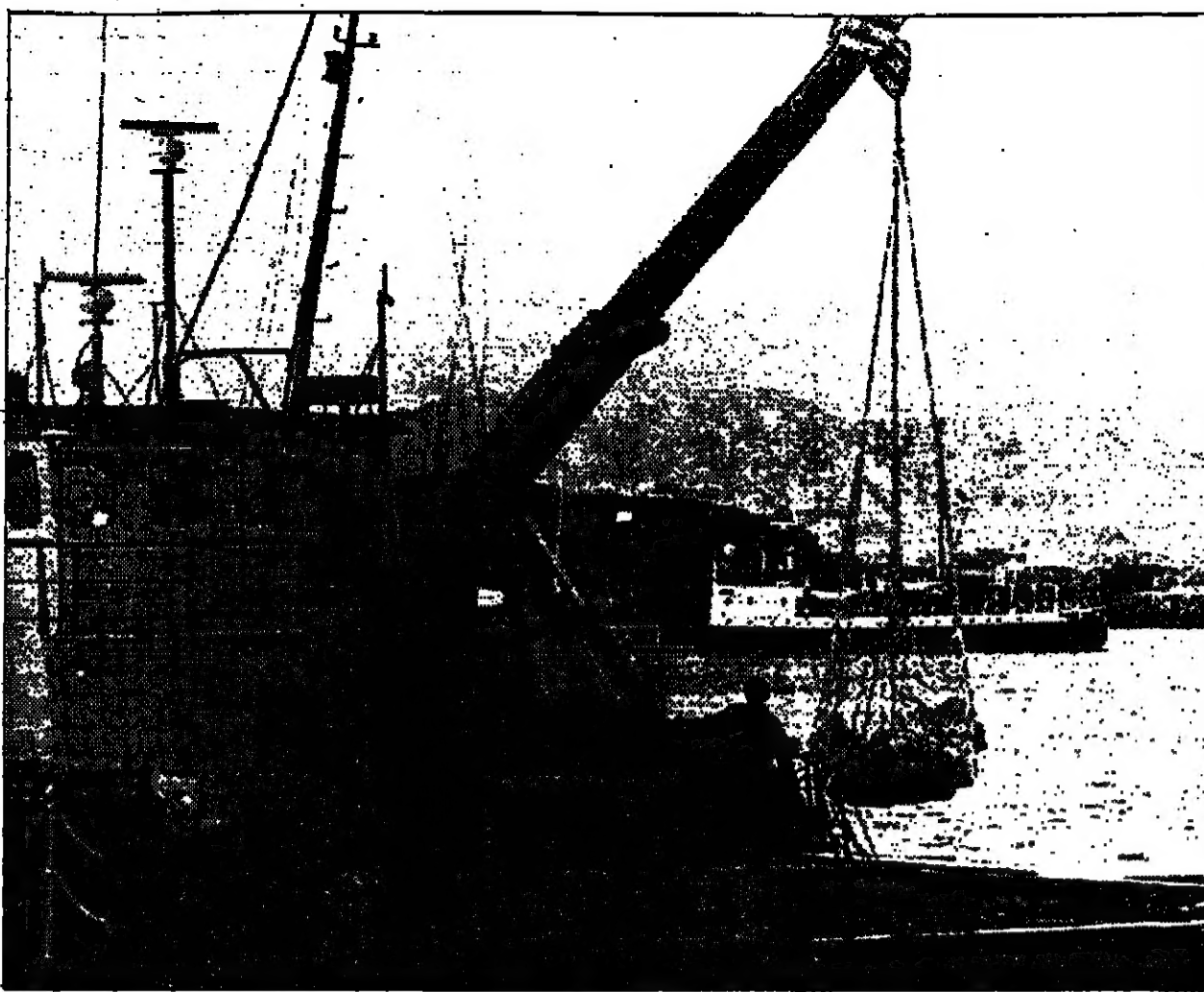
Today's hearing will be chaired by Quentin Edwards, QC, the chancellor of the Gloucester diocese, who is himself a judge, assisted by four assessors, two from the diocese and two from the clergy. The complaints were brought by a barrister, acting for the Bishop of Gloucester, and Mr Tyler will have his own legal representation. □ The Church of England has

only a rudimentary disciplinary procedure, something which Dr George Carey, the incoming Archbishop of Canterbury, is reported to be anxious to change (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The clerical profession inherited a complex system of archidiaconal, diocesan and provincial courts which was rationalised in 1963 by the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure.

Proceedings of a consistory court are open to the public and have the same status in English law as any other court. The alleged offence has to have taken place within three years of the beginning of proceedings.

The bishop can deliver a rebuke; a censure, an order to "refrain from doing"; disqualification for a period of time; or a deprivation of living. In the last case, a bishop may then depose the offender from holy orders, which means defrocking.



One and a half tons of cannabis, with a street value of over £10 million, being unloaded from the Panamanian oil rig supply vessel Sea Ranger V at Oban Harbour, Strathclyde, yesterday. Customs men on the warship Glasgow boarded the boat off the Outer Hebrides at the weekend. A number of men have been charged.

Terrorist interview ban is unlawful, Lords told

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

THE government's ban on direct-television and radio interviews with members of terrorist groups is unnecessary and unjustified, the House of Lords was told yesterday.

Anthony Lester, QC, said that the ban, which has led to some interviews being dubbed with actors' voices, interfered with the rights and duties of broadcasters to inform and the right of the public to be informed without reasonable justification.

A panel of five Law Lords is hearing an appeal by six broadcasting journalists and a press union employee who challenge the legality of the restrictions imposed last year by Douglas Hurd, who was then home secretary. The 13 groups covered by the ban include Sinn Féin and the Ulster Defence Association. The journalists say that the ban is unlawful, perverse and an unjustified interference with their right to freedom of speech.

Mr Lester said the broadcasters would argue that the home secretary could not justify his actions by reference to principles enshrined in English or European laws guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms including freedom of speech.

The six journalists are Don Brind, Fred Emery, Alexander Graham, Victoria Leonard, Scarlett McGwire, and John Pilger. The press union employee is Thomas Nash of the National Union of Journalists. The hearing continues today.

Collapsed Marconi prosecution cost over £3m

By JAMIE DETTMER

A FRAUD case against one of Britain's biggest defence contractors, which took four years to bring to court, collapsed at a cost of over £3 million.

The Serious Fraud Office dropped its prosecution against three Marconi companies and four former senior executives after a picture of "muddled and confused accounting rather than dishonesty" emerged during the six-week trial at Winchester Crown Court.

William Denny, QC, for Marconi,

told the court yesterday that the prosecution had failed because the evidence of its chief witness had been totally destroyed. He said Kingsley Throver, a former Marconi contracts officer who reported the companies to the Ministry of Defence, had damaged the crown case beyond repair. "As a witness he was totally destroyed. He was embittered and had a deep-seated hatred for his former colleagues," Mr Denny said.

Am Goddard, QC, for the prosecution, said the decision not to proceed, which she announced on Friday, was

taken after a further statement was made by another prosecution witness, Brian Mitchell, a Marconi project controller. "Against the background of muddles, the prosecution did not think it proper to ask the jury to infer fraud or dishonesty," she said.

Miss Goddard accepted that "inadequacies" in Marconi's accounting system were to blame, not the three companies or the four defendants.

Marconi had been charged with defrauding the MoD of more than £200,000 over three large electronics

contracts for scrambling devices for Royal Navy warships. Three Marconi firms and four former executives were charged with 19 offences, including theft and deception.

The four men cleared and discharged were Major General John Sturge, former general manager, of Odiham, Hampshire, William Diddcott, former contracts manager, of Bridgwater, Somerset, Richard Ellingham, former commercial director, of Sible Hedingham, Essex, and Roger Pepperell, former chief accountant, of Fair Oak, Hampshire.

Abducted boy's priorities give cause for hope

Questions about his Turtle stickers by Simon Jones, the boy found eight weeks after being abducted, bode well for a good recovery, according to doctors, Michael Horsnell writes

AS SIMON Jones helped detectives to piece together his missing eight weeks yesterday, a leading psychologist was optimistic about the recovery the four-year-old boy will make after his abduction.

A man arrested after the discovery of Simon safe and well was still being questioned by police last night.

Dr Richard Lansdown, chief psychologist at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, said that the boy's concern about the whereabouts of his collection of Teenage Mutant Hero Turtle stickers and what presents he would be getting for his fifth birthday next month were healthy indications of his desire to return to normal life.

Simon, who went missing on September 23 from Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead, after being offered an ice-cream and who was found only on Sunday, was taken with his mother, Sally Jones, to be interviewed by specially trained women police officers after playing happily with his two elder brothers and driving around in a toy police car earlier in the morning.

Simon's grandmother Jean Stevens said that he appeared to have been well looked after and when found was wearing a clean set of clothes different from those he had on when he disappeared. "As far as he was concerned, he was being looked after and the person who had him was a nice person," she said.

Simon's progress is expected to be monitored by psychologists who said that he might display behavioural regression such as tantrums, bed-wetting and feeding difficulties. Playing through his experience with his brothers would help him to alleviate stress.

Dr Lansdown said: "What is most important is how Simon perceived his experience. If his captor said he was looking after him because his mother was ill and that he would be returned when she was better, that would have helped him make some sense of it and relieved the stress. If that did not occur, it would have been bewildering and damaging for him. His behaviour is likely to be very clingy and he might show a fear of men of the same age and appearance as his captor."

Mrs Jones, aged 32, said:

"It's a fantastic day. I can't put into words what I am feeling, but holding Simon in my arms is a moment I never thought I would have again. In my heart I think I had given up hope after all this time, that I would see him alive. I am overwhelmed with joy."

As Simon enjoyed his first full day of freedom, David Cansdale, assistant chief constable of Hertfordshire, said that he was "amazed" that no one had seen the boy during his captivity.

Police found Simon alone in a bedroom at a private hostel for the homeless in George Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, after a 999 call from the manager and are increasingly confident that he spent his entire captivity there.

Mr Cansdale, who has disclosed that officers vis-



Simon Jones: concerned about his Turtle stickers

ited the hostel only ten days after the abduction, said: "The amazing thing is that if he was there all that time neither the manager nor the ten or 11 residents were aware of anything."

Police are disappointed that it took eight weeks to find Simon, but maintain that the methodical procedure of house-to-house enquiries paid off — as it did in case of Gemma Lawrence, found near the caravan site at Bridport, Dorset, from which she had been taken disappeared after a police officer became suspicious during a call at a house.

In the Simon Jones case, a routine visit to the hostel, the production of a photograph of the boy and a request to look out for anything suspicious eventually led to the manager raising the alarm more than six weeks later. Police say that such calls keep publicity up. The enquiry at the hostel was one of 2,241 made by police seeking Simon.

Irish four expelled from Britain

Four Irish people were expelled from Britain yesterday after being held for eight days under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

David Waddington, the home secretary, signed the exclusion orders after the four had been held for the maximum seven days without charge. He also authorised their detention pending their expulsion. No criminal charges have been brought against the four, who have not been named. They were arrested on November 11 during a raid on two flats in Kilburn, north-west London.

Three other people were also detained and yesterday they were remanded in custody until Thursday, charged with conspiracy to cause explosions. William Patrick McKane, aged 23, his wife Slobhan, aged 26, of Sidmouth Court, Kilburn, appeared with Martin Docherty, aged 32, of Dublin, at Thames magistrates' court, east London.

Cathedral vote

The 40 non-residential canons belonging to the greater chapter of Lincoln Cathedral have passed a vote of no confidence in the ability of the cathedral dean and chapter to reconcile their differences over the £56,000 cost to the cathedral of displaying the Magna Carta in Brisbane, Australia, in 1988. The greater chapter said the affair had caused "trauma to the people of the diocese and beyond".

BSB man leaves

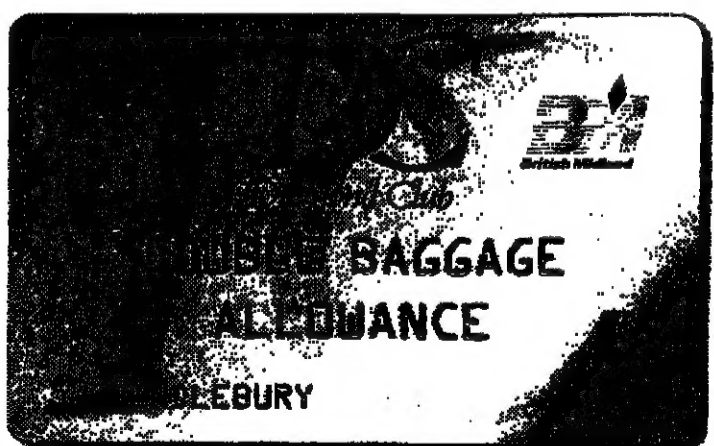
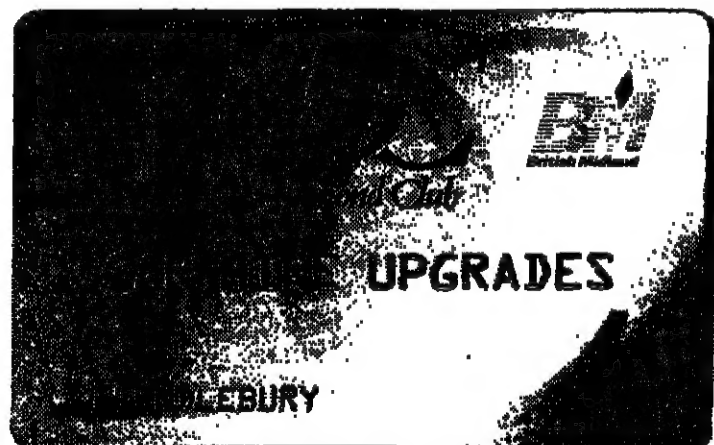
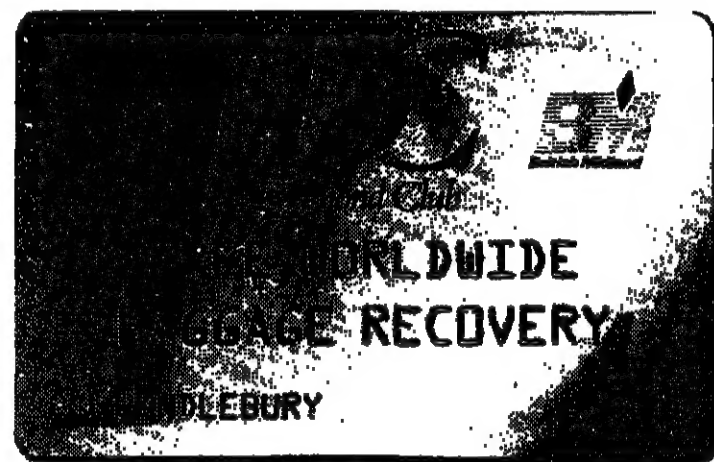
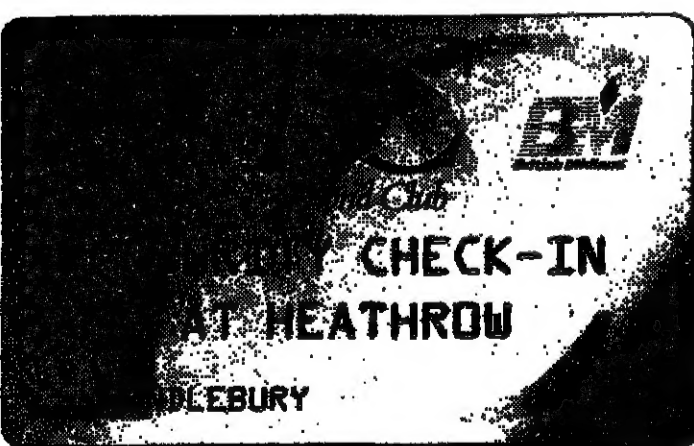
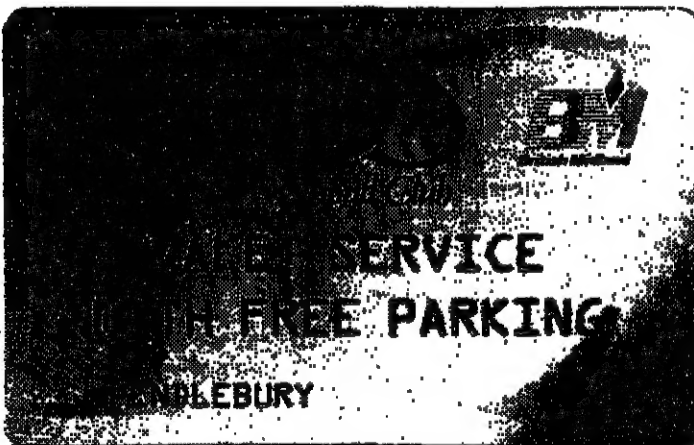
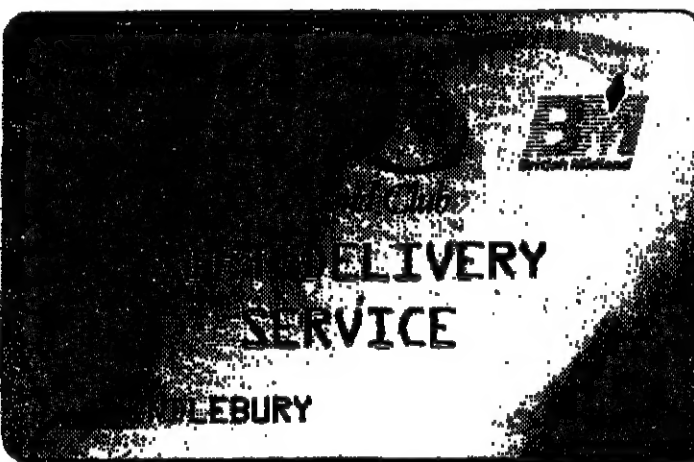
Hugh Williams, executive director of British Satellite Broadcasting's NOW channel, has left the merged British Sky Broadcasting. "Since it has been decided that NOW and Sky News are to merge there is no role for me in the new company," he said in a statement. A BSkyB spokeswoman said that Sky News would take some of the NOW programmes but denied any plans for a merger.

Dentist barred

Patrick Smith, aged 62, a London dentist, was struck off the register after he was found guilty of serious professional misconduct yesterday for allowing his receptionist, Miss Philippa Porter, to work on patients. The professional conduct committee of the General Dental Council heard that she cleaned a stump and recommended a crown while he was treating another patient or watching television.

Racing editor

Charles Wilson, former editor of The Times, is to join The Sporting Life, Robert Maxwell's racing daily newspaper, as managing director and editor-in-chief. He said: "For the last 40 years my two great passions in life have been racing and newspapers. Offered a chance to put these two passions together and be paid for the privilege was too difficult to resist."



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Anti-terror bill condemned as repressive

A BILL giving new anti-terrorist powers to the security forces in Northern Ireland was attacked in the Commons yesterday as "repression by reflex action".

Kevin McNamara, the shadow spokesman for the province, said that the legislation added to the plethora of restrictions inhibiting freedom in the province. Labour, as a result of its commitment to the rule of law, was bound to oppose parts of the legislation.

He was speaking after the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) bill was commended by Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, as a fair and proportionate response to the terrorist threat.

Moving the second reading, Mr Brooke said that the bill brought together all the anti-terrorism provisions applying to Northern Ireland and provided the police and the armed forces with powers of arrest and seizure.

It created a new offence of bypassing closed border crossing points and a new power to allow the police and armed forces to examine documents and other recorded data.

Its provisions were, generally speaking, in line with recommendations made by Viscount Colville of Culross who had conducted a review of the working of anti-terrorist legislation in Northern Ireland.

The government had, however, not accepted a recommendation to drop provisions relating to internment. Mr Brooke said: "I make no apology for this. The government is determined to keep available a comprehensive range of responses to terrorist violence in the province."

"Although the precise circumstances in which detention would be reintroduced are not presently identifiable, and while there are no current plans to do so, the government continues to believe that the outright repeal of the provisions would be mistaken."

He argued that internment, when required, needed to be implemented quickly.

Mervyn Rees, the former Labour home secretary, called for a better justification. Threatening to vote against the bill, Mr Rees said that internment, not used since 1975, had sullied the law and had an effect abroad.

The bill contained a new offence

of possessing items intended for terrorist purposes, in line with a recommendation by Lord Colville, who had noted the use by terrorists of everyday articles, such as adhesive tape, plastic drums, bell-pushes, coffee grinders, kitchen scales and nylon fishing line, as components in bombs.

It also gave the security forces a new power to examine documents. Mr Brooke described as a "damaging omission" a recommendation by Lord Colville to limit the use of that power.

He said: "As the law now stands, the advantage lies very much in the terrorists' favour and the government has decided that action was necessary to make the terrorists' life more difficult."

He rejected a further recommendation by Lord Colville that police interviews with people suspected of terrorist offences should be recorded, without sound, on video and that tape-recordings should be allowed for consideration at trials.

Mr Brooke said: "We acknowledge that there remains concern about police interview procedures with terrorist suspects. Nevertheless, video recordings could 'jeopardise the usefulness of the interview process' and, so far as audio-taping was concerned, the time was not right to conduct trials in connection with terrorist suspects."

Mr McNamara said that the law should be certain and not leave too much to the discretion of the police. It was a package of rights, not a menu of options, and it was not for the government to pick up only the bits that were palatable, and to dispense with the rest.

Labour demands aid for children

ACTION to stop thousands of youngsters working illegally to support the family budgets was demanded by Labour's children's spokesman, Joan Lester, yesterday.

She was launching a charter to protect the under-18s and give them more rights.

Miss Lester said that there was widespread evidence that too many children were playing truant to work in shops and backstreet factories and as unpaid carers. She

would be asking in the Commons why the government had not ratified the United Nations convention on the rights of the child. "The UN stressed a child's right to protection from all forms of exploitation, cruelty and abuse", she said. "But thousands of British children work illegally to prop up the family budget."

"Hundreds of children are on 'at risk' registers without a social worker to protect them because of

lack of proper resources and an increasing number go missing from home or from residential care to roam the streets begging for food and shelter."

Miss Lester pledged that a Labour government would implement the charter and stop the exploitation of children.

Nearly 200 children were lobbying MPs at the Commons yesterday, urging that the charter should be implemented.



All together: Bryan Gould (left, Lab), David Trippier (environment minister) and Simon Hughes (Lib Dem) at a conference yesterday on the environment white paper's business implications

Environment measure wins Lords support

THE government took a further step yesterday in its policy of protecting the environment when the Natural Heritage (Scotland) bill was given an unopposed second reading in the Lords.

The bill, peers were told, is intended to bring about a more integrated approach to protecting the natural heritage.

Lord Strathclyde, an agriculture minister, moving the second reading, said that it had one overriding purpose, to ensure that the natural environment, particularly resources of land and water, were managed in a sustainable way to

secure the inheritance of succeeding generations.

The merger would bring about a more efficient and more effective organisational structure to achieve an integrated approach to the natural heritage.

He announced proposed government changes to the Bill to enable natural heritage areas to be established and to give the red deer commission powers to cull deer for nature and landscape conservation reasons.

The Bill would also improve water management in times of drought.

Poll tax 'not connected with vote'

THE prime minister has made clear that failure to register for the community charge does not deprive a citizen of the vote.

In a Commons written reply, Margaret Thatcher said that the community charge register and the electoral register were separate entities and compiled with reference to different criteria and for different purposes.

Europe links

The Commons authorities are seeking to improve the telephone and postal links between Westminster and EC institutions, John MacGregor, leader of the House, said at question time.

Clark's pps

Alan Clark, defence procurement minister, has appointed David Martin (Portsmouth South) as his parliamentary private secretary.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Health; prime minister (John MacGregor to reply); Criminal Justice Bill, second reading; Lords (2.30): New Roads and Street Works bill, second reading.

Northern Tories face 'cap' peril

By PETER DAVENPORT

FROM Eaton hill in Cleveland a panorama of smoking chimneys, cooling stacks and heavy industry stretches as far as the eye can see.

The northern part of the borough of Langhaurgh takes in huge British Steel works and ICI chemical plants in a six-mile ribbon development of almost unrelieved urban sprawl that runs from Grangestown to Redcar on the coast.

It is one of the most heavily industrialised areas of the country and includes the largest blast furnace in Europe and one of its biggest chemical complexes.

Yet under the complicated formulae used by government to calculate the spending limits of local councils, the area, on the southern banks of the river Tees, is treated as if it were open countryside.

The effect on Langhaurgh's local authority finances means that it is the first Conservative authority to face the prospect of charge capping.

Ron Robertson, the council treasurer, said yesterday: "We have been complaining about the classification of the area as open land for four or five years and we were told that the introduction of the poll tax would sort the matter out. Experience has proved to be to the contrary."

Tomorrow, a delegation from the council, which is run by a minority Conservative administration, and the local Conservative MP, Richard Holt, will try to persuade Robert Key, the junior environment minister, to change the classification of the land to help to improve their critical financial position.

Failure to win their case will leave the authority with the prospect of introducing swingeing cuts that could include the loss of hundreds of council jobs, the closure of leisure and recreation centres and the end of a £1.5 million concessionary travel programme used by 20,000 elderly people.

Langhaurgh was created under local government reorganisation in 1973 and, at 145,000, has the second largest population of the four boroughs in the county of Cleveland. The borough, a mix of heavily industrialised towns and wide expanses of countryside, is one of only four authorities in the country to receive

government grants for inner city aid and rural development.

Keith Abigail, the council's chief executive, says that the problems have arisen because the formula used to calculate the urban density of the area took no account of the its special problems. In particular, it failed to account for the dominating presence of British Steel and ICI in three wards.

As a result, Langhaurgh's spending limit of £106 a head was £57 less than that of neighbouring Middlesbrough which has a similar industrial make-up.

The council budget this year is £17.9 million. If the authority merely continued with existing programmes, spending in the next financial year, allowing for inflation, would rise to £19.5 million.

Chris Patten, the environment secretary, has set a limit on the council spending next year of £11.7 million, but capping can be applied only to authorities with budgets of more than £15 million.

Meeting even that figure would involve the council in cuts of almost £3 million on current spending, a sixth of its total expenditure.

At present, the council's poll tax is set at £420. Officials said yesterday that, unless action is taken, the charge could rise to as much as £485 next year because of the loss of safety net payments to the authority and likely spending increases by the county council.

To rub salt in the wounds, the change in the old non-domestic rating system meant that the borough and county councils lost about £10 million a year from rates formerly paid directly to them by British Steel and ICI. That money now goes to central government.

Tomorrow the council will offer suggestions to the government on ways to relieve its financial gloom. It will ask for the standard spending assessment to be reviewed with the present "open land" classification altered or, failing that, it will offer to introduce a standstill budget for next year which will mean, in effect, a cut of a tenth in real terms in spending. The delegation hopes that that would persuade Mr Patten to exempt the council from capping.

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Bush pledges fail to please cash-starved Eastern Europe

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Bush's first visit to Eastern Europe since the collapse of communist rule disappointed not only the Czechoslovaks but all the new democratic governments which had looked to America as a counterweight to Germany in the post-communist East.

His promise to Prague at the weekend — to support the congressional plan to allocate it \$60 million (£30.6 million) and a slice of the various multilateral aid programmes — was not enough, particularly compared to fast-moving German credit lines.

Yesterday in Paris Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish prime minister, was preparing to meet President Bush. Polish officials say the president is ready to write off some Polish debt — Warsaw owes America about \$3.2 billion — and even act unilaterally in doing so. That is a welcome boost for Mr Mazowiecki in his bid for

the Polish presidency. But, again, it is not enough. Eastern expectations of American assistance are, perhaps naively, high. Policy-makers assumed that the Americans would want to take the capitalist lead in the region. Instead, the Gulf confrontation and American budget problems have reduced Washington's room for manoeuvre.

American policy is going through a clumsy shift from the old policy — such as the Cocom restrictions on high-technology exports — to a pattern of economic aid aimed at strengthening the new democracies. But the financial limitations and debates on whether aid should be unilateral or multilateral have dulled this vision.

America still has important policy objectives in Eastern Europe. It was plain from President Bush's visit to Prague that America was as concerned as President Havel

to deal with one federal state of Czechs and Slovaks. It was the United States, too, that pressed within Group 24 — set up by the West to channel aid to Eastern Europe — to exclude Romania from the assistance programmes because of human rights abuses.

But on the most fundamental economic issues America is giving way consistently to Germany. The European Commission co-ordinates Group 24 assistance, which in practice gives Germany a big say in its distribution. During the Paris Club negotiations on whether to ease Poland's debt burden, a Deutsche Bank director embarrassed America by writing (in the quarterly *International Economy*) that Washington and not Germany was holding up progress.

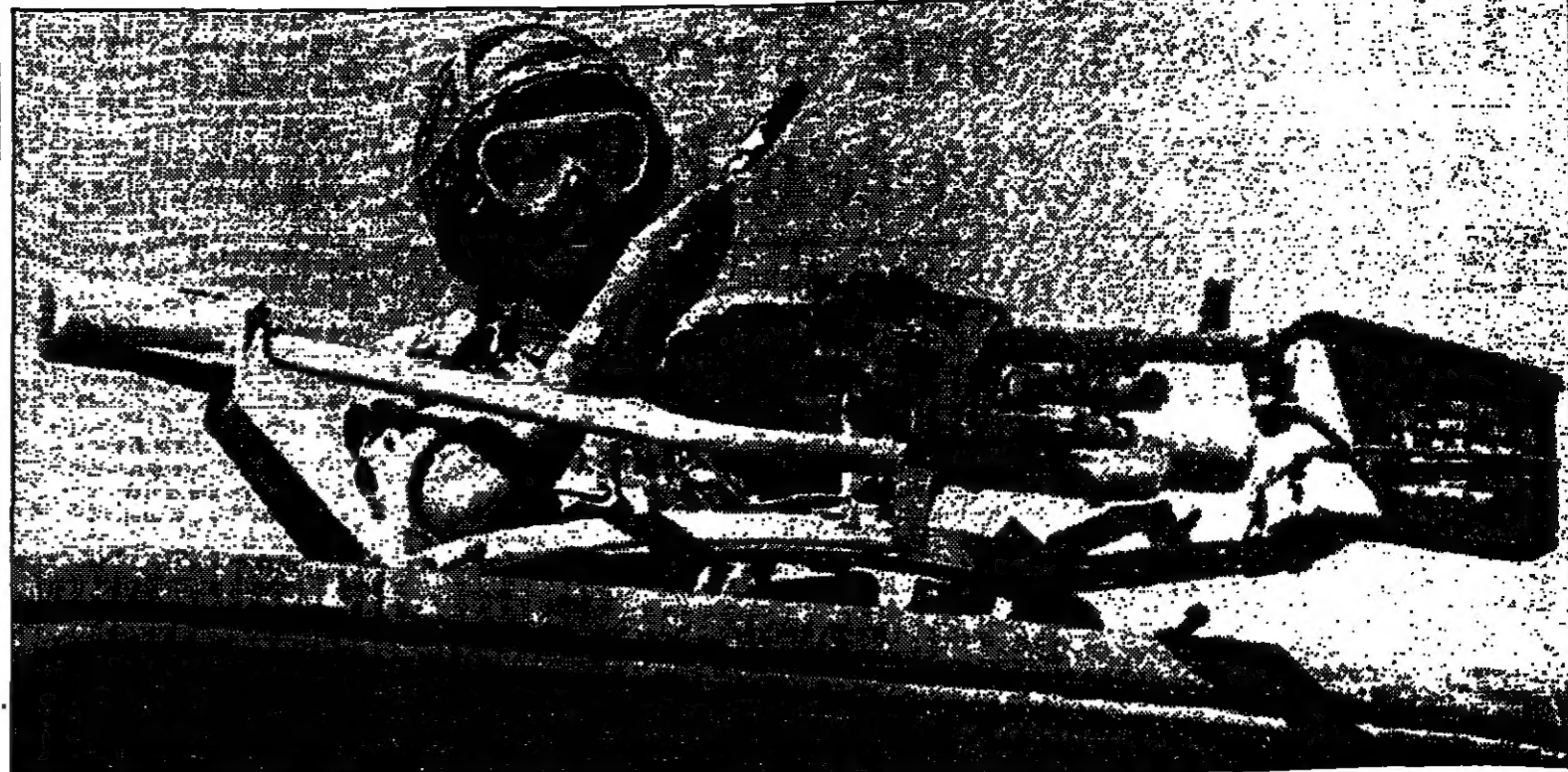
At the beginning of this month the State Department issued a fierce denial, saying that the Germans should not have leaked Paris Club proceedings and emphasising that America was not thinking of vetoing a decision to reduce Polish debt. At the same time US Treasury officials told Poles, privately, that there was no chance of Warsaw securing its aim of 80 per cent debt forgiveness.

Congress has empowered the president to negotiate a reduction of the Polish debt but has emphasised it should be done within the framework of a multilateral agreement. Congressmen were worried that he might make a unilateral gesture, cancelling some American debt and thus freeing resources to be paid to other Western creditors. Other representatives, notably a group of 12 led by a Democrat, Stephen Solarz, think the president should go ahead anyway and set an example for other creditor nations.

Caught between the need for fiscal caution and the urge to make a grand gesture to assert American influence in the East, the Bush administration seems to be settling for rhetoric and a policy of small economic steps.

Congress has passed a foreign assistance law providing \$439 million to all the post-communist states apart from Romania. In addition, there is a programme of \$369 million in direct aid for central and Eastern Europe. By contrast, Germany has promised DM33 billion (£1 billion) credit to Poland alone.

American businessmen complain that they are being outmanoeuvred by German companies in Eastern Europe. Moreover there seems to be evidence that German companies are negotiating with the East for the delivery of goods that are still bound by the Cocom ban on strategically sensitive exports. Since the unification of Germany this ban has been virtually unenforceable, but American companies are still having to act according to its provisions.



Staying cool: Peter Dewsbury of the Desert Rats savouring an ice cream during an assault training exercise in the Gulf with US and Saudi troops

Gorbachev urged to back force

From MICHAEL BINYON AND MICHAEL EVANS IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Bush appealed last night to President Gorbachev to support Washington's campaign for a new United Nations resolution authorising the use of force in the Gulf.

The military option against Iraq was one of the main topics of their conversation at a dinner at the American ambassador's residence. Both men had earlier denounced Iraqi aggression in their speeches to 32 other leaders at the Paris security summit.

But Mr Bush was careful not to use language as explicit as Mrs Thatcher, who repeatedly called yesterday for the use of force unless President Saddam Hussein withdrew immediately.

Mrs Thatcher spoke of the urgency of liberating Kuwait at a meeting with Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary-general. However, in a new initiative yesterday to satisfy restive EC partners, especially Germany, Britain was suggesting that Señor Pérez de Cuellar exhausts every diplomatic option before a resolution on force be considered by the security council.

"What we have got now is not peace," she told a joint press conference with Mr Bush after the two had discussed the Gulf at breakfast.

"There is no peace in Kuwait, there is evil, there is daily brutality, there is cruelty. They are shooting people because they have attempted to hide and protect foreigners in Kuwait. That is not peace. It is the worst brutality and

evil. Unless he leaves, he will have to be made to leave by force." She said President Saddam played with human beings like pawns. "Unless you stop this man, there will be no peace in the world, let alone in the Middle East."

Mr Bush, asked to endorse her view, would only say: "We are not ruling out any options at all." He denied that other allied leaders were trying to restrain him and the president. But both he and Mrs Thatcher appeared irritated with the calls by Helmut Kohl for a delay before any decision to use force.

He said after a two-hour meeting with the German chancellor: "I agree with Chancellor Kohl that it would be nice to have a peaceful resolution to this question. That is what we have been trying to do."

He denounced the "cynicism" of Iraq starting to release hostages on Christmas day. He expressed scepticism over Mr Gorbachev's suggestion of a new diplomatic initiative. He had seen nothing suggesting compliance with the United Nations resolutions.

Earlier, the Soviet leader gave a clear warning that sanctions must be given more time. In his speech to the summit, President Gorbachev said the Soviet Union was "prepared to show patience in the quest for a political solution". But it remained "firm and determined" in implementing the United Nations resolutions.

Defiant Shamir risks US anger

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, has risked anger from the United States and a revival of the issue of linkage between Kuwait and the Palestinian question by publicly reasserting the need for Israel to maintain its hold on the occupied territories, diplomats said yesterday.

Observers said it was unfortunate that Mr Shamir should have raised the question of "Greater Israel" again at a time when Washington was asking Israel to keep a low profile because of the Gulf confrontation. The opposition Labour party said that by implying that Israel needed the occupied West Bank to accommodate large numbers of immigrants from the Soviet Union, Mr Shamir was jeopardising immigration.

In an address at a memorial ceremony for deceased leaders of Likud, his right-wing party, Mr Shamir asserted the Likud aim of a state of Israel between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan river. A commitment to the "territorial integrity of the land of Israel" had significance for future generations and for mass immigration (*aliyah*), Mr Shamir said. In Likud terminology, "the land of Israel" usually refers not only to pre-1967 Israel but also to the West Bank and its ancient Biblical towns such as Hebron and Nablus.

Mr Shamir caused a similar storm in January, when he said that a Greater Israel would be needed to absorb massive Soviet immigration. Yesterday, however, Mr

Shamir insisted he had not meant to link the question of territorial integrity, which was above all a security matter, with mass immigration, which was "the fulfilment of the great Zionist dream".

The American attempt to convene Israeli-Palestinian peace talks has been shelved since the Shamir government was formed in June. But since the beginning of the Gulf confrontation, Western leaders have indicated that although direct linkage between Kuwait and the question of Palestine is inadmissible, an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait must be followed by renewed efforts to settle the Palestinian issue and so achieve stability throughout the Middle East.

The Egyptian foreign ministry yesterday summoned Ephraim Doweik, Israel's new ambassador to Cairo, to explain Mr Shamir's "expansionist remarks". Egypt also called on the United Nations Security Council to "take measures to protect Palestinians and implement resolutions by the United Nations". The prevailing Arab fear is that Israel will settle thousands of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

TEL AVIV — The Israel Press Council yesterday protested at the arrest without trial of two leading Palestinian journalists, saying their six-month detention posed a threat to freedom of the press. The two were jailed last week for alleged membership of the banned Palestine Liberation Organisation. (Reuters)

Secret service gear up for visit

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN DHAHRAN

A SECRET, high-technology security plan will be put into operation here on Thursday when George Bush becomes the first American president for two decades to visit his troops preparing for battle in what amounts to a war zone.

Western sources said British officials would be observing the security procedures closely because if Mrs Thatcher retains the leadership of the Conservative party she is expected to make a similar trip to the 7th Armoured Brigade before Christmas.

American secret servicemen have described as a nightmare the task of reconciling the president's wish to get his November 22 Thanksgiving message across to the widest possible audience, with measures to avoid a terrorist or Iraqi attack.

Specific details about the president's itinerary, apart from the giant King Abdul Aziz Air Base at Dhahran which resembles a set for a Vietnam war film, have been restricted to organisers and those units with whom he will share Thanksgiving turkey.

The highlight will be a visit to marines believed to be camped between 60 and 100 miles from the Kuwaiti border. Mr Bush's address will be relayed live by satellite to a tent erected for the huge press corps in the grounds of the Dhahran International Hotel.

There is suspicion that disinformation has been spread about the locations for the visit. Decoy helicopters will be used to divert attention from the president's own machine, Marine One, which American sources say is expected to fly in "evasive, sand-hugging patterns".

The small army of secret servicemen accompanying Mr Bush will be armed with shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles as well as conventional firearms. A watch will be kept for any untoward movements by Iraqi aircraft.

A Western military expert said: "The main fear is not that Iraqi conventional forces will try anything, but rather that somebody could try to pull off a terrorist spectacular." The main concern remains the pillaging of Kuwaiti passports by the invading Iraqis, who have used them to try to infiltrate agents into a number of Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

SYDNEY: Gough Whitlam, former prime minister of Australia, is preparing to visit Baghdad in response to a request by Australian hostages that he negotiate their release (Robert Cockburn writes). Mr Whitlam, a popular public figure 15 years after his Labor government was removed from office, was immediately criticised by Bob Hawke, the prime minister.

Yeltsin signs pact with the Ukraine

From ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

BORIS Yeltsin, president of the Russian federation and the Leonid Kravchuk, president of the Ukraine, yesterday signed an "historic" treaty providing the framework for economic, political, defence and cultural links between the Soviet Union's two key republics.

The Russian president presented the treaty to the Ukrainian people as the first-ever agreement between the two republics which treats the Ukraine as an equal.

Mr Yeltsin used the signing of the treaty to make yet another attack on President Gorbachev and the Soviet government. He also called for the KGB to be reorganised into an organisation promoting human rights.

The Russian president said after the pact was signed: "We have united the efforts of two republics which have a total of 200 million people and the powerful resources that are the equal of any two states in the world."

Mr Yeltsin claimed that Mr Gorbachev was finished. "Under the influence of the bureaucratic forces, he has taken up more radical measures which were first proposed two or three years ago. If we had taken those measures then we would not be in the position we are now."

His strident tone was supported to some degree by Mr Kravchuk, up to now an old guard communist. He said: "We cannot agree with agreements and loans which are concluded with other countries as Soviet-wide loans, as

we will have to pay for them. We want to know for what purposes they are for."

Mr Yeltsin added: "Gorbachev is now running around in Italy and France. We have a Russian republic representative with him so we know what he is talking about and what he is signing."

The primary importance of the treaty may well be in scuppering any chance of success that Mr Gorbachev's central government has of a new union treaty being signed.

MOSCOW: The Soviet parliament was yesterday presented with a bill that would make the rouble the only legal tender throughout the Soviet Union (Mary Dejevsky writes). The bill is designed both to curb the aspirations of the Soviet Union's 15 republics for their own currencies and to discourage the growing trend towards using the dollar.

Personal touch

New York — Time magazine is putting a personal touch to this week's issue focusing on junk mail — each of four million American subscribers will see their name on the cover. (Reuters)

Rock star hurt

Los Angeles — The rock star David Crosby, aged 49, of the group Crosby, Stills and Nash, was seriously hurt when he fell from his motorcycle while taking a bend here, police said. (Reuters)

British women fly back home

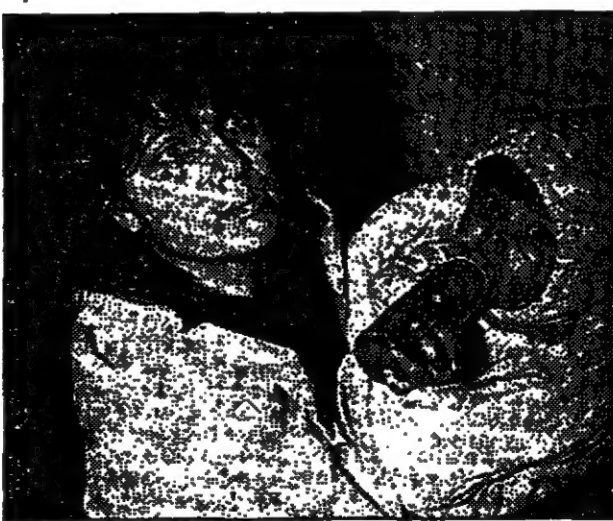
By MICHAEL KNIFE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

TWO British women and seven children who arrived at Gatwick airport yesterday from Kuwait, via Baghdad, are believed to have been virtually the last Britons in Kuwait who still had the option of leaving.

Foreign Office officials said there might be a handful of other women eligible to leave who were married to Gulf nationals and had elected to stay. If it was learnt that there were others wishing to go, who were able to obtain exit permits, they would be helped to do so.

There were also two British men on yesterday's flight, one of whom is thought to have been granted an exit visa because he was a United Nations employee. It was not clear how the other man, Douglas Moore, a football coach in Kuwait, had obtained his visa.

Mr Moore spoke on his arrival of the fear, hunger and despair of the foreigners still in hiding and urged a quick military end to the Iraqi occupation. "The feeling of those in hiding is that the military should come and do something for God's sake. They cannot hang on." Mr Moore said he changed addresses five times to avoid the Iraqis. "We knew if we were found we would have been put



Freedom's child: an unidentified woman clutching her baby at Gatwick after flying from Iraq

in some military installations, where conditions are apparently pretty bad. The situation is bad for all Americans and Brits in Kuwait. They cannot go out into the streets for fear of being picked up by the Iraqis. How can they eat? How can they feed themselves?"

The Britons were among 129 passengers on the flight, including 75 Americans and people from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Poland, and South Africa. An American woman, who did not give her name, said she and her husband came near to starvation

during three months in hiding. "We had no food and no one wanted to give us any because they were so scared of being found out," she said. "I would plead with people not to forget those who are still hiding."

There are an estimated 600 Britons left in Kuwait. All but a handful are men, about 60 of whom are in detention. About 800 Britons are held hostage in Iraq, 300 in detention. About 900 Britons have left since September, when Iraq said that foreign women and children could go.

Yesterday's flight was the tenth time the Americans had

chartered Iraqi Airways planes to carry hostages from Iraq. The American embassy in Baghdad said there were fewer than expected on the flight, apparently because many of those who had said they intended leaving had failed to turn up for an earlier flight from Kuwait to Baghdad.

Most of those who left Baghdad had been told to assemble at Kuwait airport early on Sunday. They appeared tired and confused and many were fearful for the husbands they had left behind. "I don't want to speak. I don't want retaliation or anything to happen to my husband," said one American.

Some women spoke bitterly of their experiences in Kuwait. One mother of three, who identified herself only as Julie, said: "My children were frightened of the danger, the uncertainty. They kept saying to me, 'You're not going to die, are you mummy?'"

Some women spoke of Kuwait as a devastated city and said fighting was still going on there. "You hear it — sometimes machine-guns, sometimes small-arms fire, it depends what area you are in... It happens regularly," said a British woman.

Italians turn backs on fur

From PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

THE last European bastion of the fur coat is tottering, and the once-familiar sight of elegant women stepping languidly down the Spanish steps in mink and sable could soon become a thing of the past. Fur sales in Italy are dropping, and environmentalists and furriers are waging an all-out war using posters and newspaper advertisements.

From many Roman walls a baby mink stares pitifully at passers-by. "Somebody else is wearing my mother's coat," it complains. The furriers are hitting back with full-page newspaper advertisements saying: "Killing animals is a crime? For some people only."

Until now Italy was the only major European country in which stylish and status-conscious women could stride proudly down the street displaying minks, sables, chinchillas and, in hard times, even foxes. No marks, insults, rotten eggs or sharp jabs to the body. The worst they could expect were stares of envy from their poorer sisters.

In Italy lavish furs are not only seen in Rome's Via Condotti or Milan's Via Montenapoleone, but all over the country and among virtually all social classes. In spite

of the gentle climate, Italian women have an unbounded passion for furs, and the first hint of autumn will bring them out in their elegant thousands.

Surprisingly, fur sales are growing in the warm and statistically poor south while they are dropping in the cold and rich north: an indication perhaps of the more traditional vision the southern woman has of herself, but also a sign that the more evolved north is turning away from furs. Which is bad news for the fur trade.

It seems likely that Italy will gradually follow the prevailing trend in the rest of Europe away from fur coats.

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FBI confirms French security agents targeted hi-tech firms

A SENIOR FBI official has corroborated reports that the French security service recently attempted industrial espionage against two leading American computer and electronics companies.

The reports, which first surfaced in the French press last spring, alleged that between 1987 and 1989 the Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure tried to recruit employees in the European offices of IBM and Texas Instruments in order to channel information to Compagnie des Machines Bull, a partly state-owned French computer company. The CIA and the FBI learned of the operation, and the State Department reportedly sent a confidential protest to the French government, though neither administration publicly acknowledged the affair.

Asked about the allegations against the French security service, Douglas Gow, an assistant director in charge of the FBI's foreign counter-intelligence operations, said during a weekend television interview only that "there was activity on their part" and "there was action taken with regard to that".

Anonymous intelligence of-

America is becoming increasingly worried about economic espionage and may decide to retaliate in kind, Martin Fletcher reports

Officials quoted by *The New York Times* said that apart from the old Warsaw Pact nations, France had long been one of the most active practitioners of economic espionage against American companies. "The French are the ones who show up on the screen the most," said one.

Mr Gow said that since Eastern Europe had broken with the Soviet Union, Moscow was turning to allies such as Vietnam to gather American technological information. The FBI had evidence of Vietnamese Americans being used as Soviet "surrogates".

The affair has blown up at a time when Washington is increasingly concerned about economic espionage against American companies, and is debating whether it should retaliate in kind. The senate intelligence committee recently ordered William Webster, the CIA director, to produce by March a comprehensive study of the threat

from foreign intelligence services to determine whether new counter-intelligence initiatives are required.

"As the arms race is winding down, the spy race is heating up," said David Boen, the committee chairman, in a speech earlier this year.

"An increasing share of the espionage directed against the US comes from spying by foreign governments against private American companies aimed at stealing commercial secrets to gain a national economic advantage." A current issue is the growing role of the American intelligence community in gathering and disseminating economic intelligence from abroad, with opinions sharply divided on whether America should be spying on behalf of its corporate interests.

With the cold war over, Mr Webster has candidly acknowledged that his agency will be giving higher priority to gathering intelligence from ri-



Webster ordered to report on threat

val nations to ensure America remains economically and technologically competitive. It will be seeking to spot trends, monitor trade negotiations, follow emerging technologies and keep abreast of "what our competition is doing" so "to confront it or confound it".

The prime purpose would be "to keep the playing field as level as possible", he said in one interview, but he admitted confidential commercial information would inevitably fall into the CIA's hands. "We are not going to pick up the

phone, call General Motors and say: 'I have a hot tip for you'. The question that's yet unanswered is how to deal with that information."

The National Security Agency faces the same problem. Its spy satellites pick up corporate secrets among the host of foreign communications on which it eavesdrops. According to *The Washington Post*, William Studeman, the NSA's director, recently made it clear that his agency is under pressure to pass on not just general economic intelligence, but competitive information.

Both the CIA and the NSA insist their role is defensive, but there is a large grey area. CIA officials say the agency shares information with companies if they are likely to become victims of improper activities by foreign competitors.

Vice-Admiral Studeman, who was being asked lots of questions by allies about the possibility of his agency "spying on our friends", said the NSA would help out "on the defensive side", particularly in protecting American banking institutions and others engaged "in sensitive kinds of economic enterprises".

Antarctic bases 'breaching pollution rules'

FROM NICHOLAS CARTER IN VINA DEL MAR, CHILE

ANTARCTIC Treaty countries were attacked yesterday for breaking their own rules on environmental protection of the world's last wilderness.

Campaigners gathering in Chile to lobby the 38 treaty states, including Britain, at a special consultative meeting on the environment said that national scientific bases were guilty of breaching pollution regulations.

Paul Bogart of Greenpeace International, which has maintained a polar base at Ross Island since January 1987, told a press conference in Vina del Mar that its annual Antarctic expedition had now visited 35 bases. "We have been able to monitor the degradation that the Antarctic has suffered at the hands of the guardians of our last wilderness."

Among the results of the Greenpeace survey were:

- Levels of toxic PCBs in marine sediments at the US McMurdo Base are "as high as the most industrialised areas in the world".
- The wreck of the Argentine supply and tourist vessel, Bahia Paraíso, which ran aground two years ago on the Antarctic Peninsula is still spilling fuel.
- Construction of a French airstrip at Pointe Geologie destroyed bird breeding areas in one of the most ecologically diverse spots of the continent "without the objections of a single treaty nation".

The Fildes Peninsula, a protected area under the treaty because of the outstanding biological value of its glacial meltwaters, is now the location for four bases, an airstrip and an hotel. "The meltwaters have been used as a garbage dump," Mr Bogart said that what-

ever the intentions of the treaty parties to protect the environment, "they have failed in their responsibilities". He called for a world park and a science reserve, a proposal that is backed worldwide by more than 200 organisations in 40 countries.

The Antarctic Treaty meeting, which formally begins today, is considering a wide range of issues including a possible moratorium of all mining and oil drilling, increased control of tourism, enforcing new rules on marine pollution as well as waste from bases. The meeting is intended to create a new and comprehensive environmental protection regime.

At the only formal business yesterday, The Netherlands and Ecuador were accepted as full consultative parties with voting rights. Of the 38 members, 26 have voting rights.

Suharto arrives in Hanoi for talks

Bangkok - President Suharto of Indonesia arrived in Hanoi yesterday for the first visit by a southeast Asian head of government since the communists came to power in Vietnam in April 1975, and the first visit by an Indonesian president in 30 years.

He was accompanied by Ali Alatas, the foreign minister, Major-General Murtidono, the secretary of state, and Radini Prawiro, the co-ordinating minister for economic, financial and industrial affairs and development supervision.

General Murtidono said earlier that the three-day visit would include talks with the Communist party leader Nguyen Van Linh and Do Muoi, the prime minister.

President Suharto met the Cambodian resistance leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in Peking on Saturday. (AP)

Pakistan enquiry

Islamabad - Pakistan has reopened an investigation into the plane crash in 1988 in which President Zia was killed. Police said they are checking whether the al-Zulfiqar terrorist group allegedly led by Mustafa Bhutto, brother of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, was involved in the crash. (AP)

Japan lifts ban

Tokyo - Japan is to lift a ban on travel to communist North Korea, the first fruit of a tentative dialogue aimed at restoring long-frozen ties. The ban will be dropped in April next year. Little other progress was made, but the two sides agreed to meet again next month. (Reuters)

Duo forfeit award

Los Angeles - Rob Pilatus and Fabrice Morvan, the discredited front men for the pop group Milli Vanilli, will give up the Grammy award they won for their album *Girl You Know It's True*. Last week their German producer admitted the duo did not sing on the album, and mimed their way



Last respects: police line the route as the coffin of Sergeant Stewart Guthrie, one of 13 people killed by a gunman in the New Zealand village of Aramoana, is carried from St Paul's cathedral, Dunedin, where 2,000 people attended his funeral

Move to avert fish dispute

By ANDREW MC EWE AND MICHAEL SOUTHS

BRITAIN and Argentina held unexpected talks in London yesterday in an attempt to avert a dispute over fishing around the Falkland Islands, following the failure of talks held in Madrid last week.

Lucio Garcia del Solar, a senior Argentine official who negotiated the resumption of diplomatic links with Britain in February, met Tristan Garel-Jones, a Foreign Office minister. They were understood to be discussing a demand by the Falkland Islanders to extend their fishing zone from 150 miles to 200 miles.

The Argentine foreign ministry yesterday rephrased an apparent threat made by Domingo Cavallo, the foreign minister, to take "unilateral steps" if fishing talks broke down. He meant that Argentina would feel obliged to respond if Britain took unilateral steps, a reference to an extension of the zone.

In another development, the Falkland Islands Government has refused to grant vessels from Taiwan licences to fish in its waters next year, marking its displeasure over large numbers of unlicensed Taiwanese boats which fished just outside the zone last year, reducing small catches.

Maldives fights to keep its head above rising waters

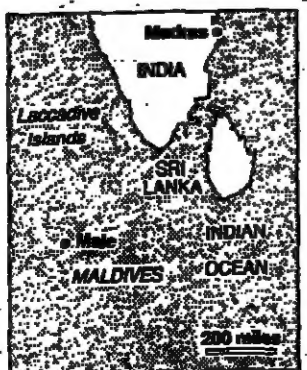
FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN MALE, THE MALDIVES

THE remote republic of the Maldives, whose 1,200 coral islands rise no more than 6ft above the sea, is fighting to save itself from vanishing beneath the ocean.

"The sea was always our friend, now it is our enemy," said Hussain Shihab, the director of environmental affairs. "If we disappear, the world will have 200,000 environmental refugees on its hands."

One giant wave in April 1987 abruptly changed the attitude of the Maldives towards the sea. Two-thirds of the capital, Male, were flooded, and there was havoc on many of the other islands. The airport, which is on a nearby island, was closed for two days, and thousands of trees were killed. The wave was caused by a storm 3,000 miles away in the southern Indian Ocean.

"This area of the ocean is extremely calm," Mr Shihab said. "There was no record of this sort of thing happening before. Cyclones head towards us but because we are on the equator they turn away before reaching here. We always believed we had nothing to fear from the sea. Now we must fight it or we are finished." It is a warning of



the country's desperation that it has now banned the ancient custom of coral mining carried out by divers, who traditionally take off only the top 6 ft of coral.

"They back at it while they hold their breath, which is why they do not go deeper," Mr Shihab said. "But once the top part has gone the coral growth is seriously affected. That is also the part that gives the most important protection from the sea."

Anybody building a house on any of the 200 populated islands traditionally dives for coral, but even that has been banned. Mr Shihab said the islands would not have been so badly damaged by the freak wave had the reef been intact.

The government still permits coral mining further out

inaccessible to islanders accustomed to working around the shoreline. The republic, which lies 375 miles off the southwest coast of India, now uses imported cement for construction.

With Japanese assistance, a sea wall has been built along the southern edge of Male to protect the capital from any more big waves. But if global warming causes a substantial rise in the sea level, nothing will be able to save the islands. Mr Shihab said there was also concern that coral would stop growing if sea temperatures rose.

Many of the previously unoccupied islands of the Maldives have been turned into expensive tourist resorts, and tourism now outperforms fisheries as the main source of income. "Many people come specifically to see the coral," Mr Shihab said. "We always took it completely for granted and never thought we would ever have to stop removing it."

"We need it for all construction and only now do we realise that it is the reef that protects us. It is a burden to our small economy to have to import substitute materials, but this is a necessary price. It will change the character of our buildings but it is unavoidable if we are to

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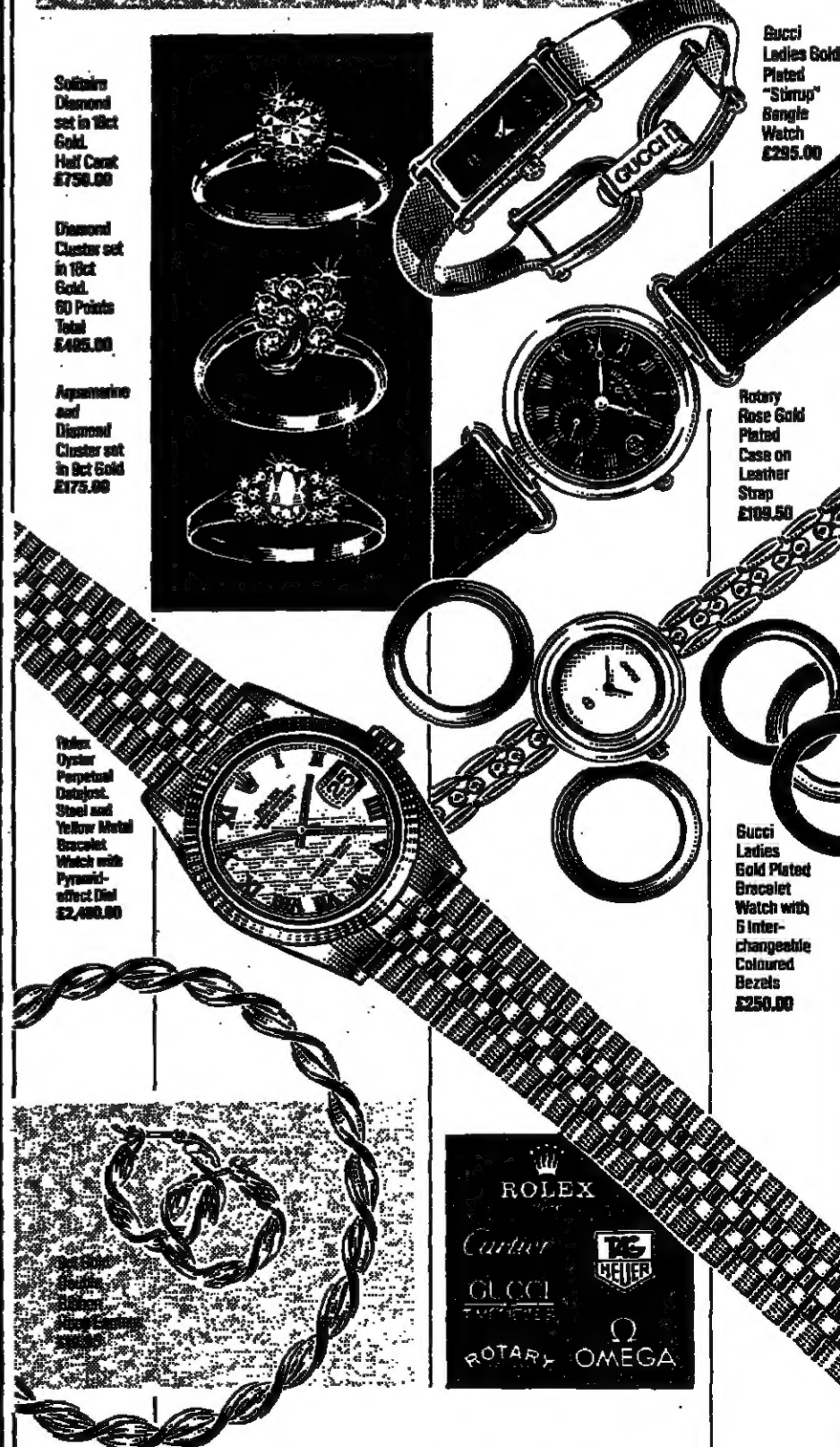
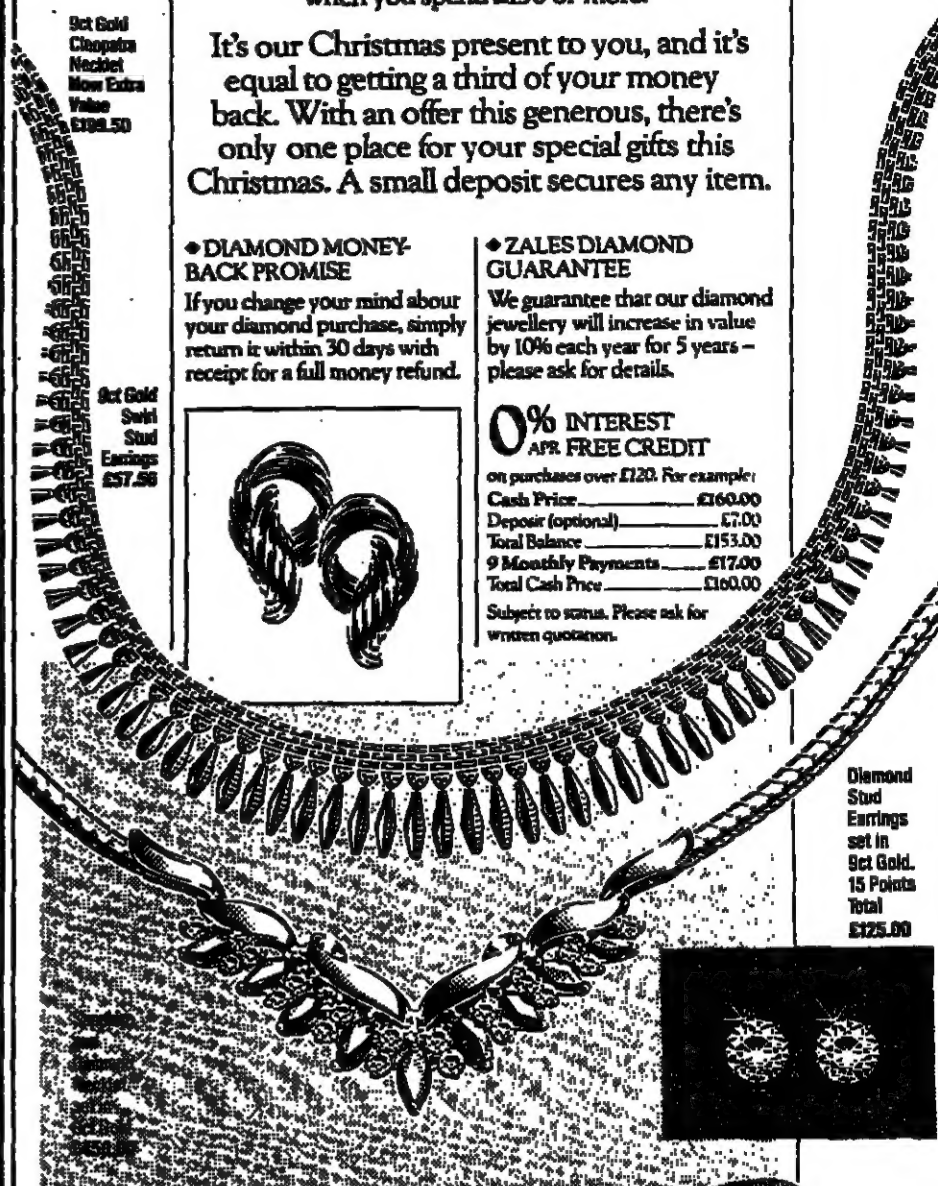
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Should she stay? Should she go? Why is she there at all? Three *Times* columnists on today's Conservative poll

There is no alternative

Woodrow Wyatt

Conservative MPs should not be confused by the weekend spate of opinion polls suggesting they would fare better at an election with Mrs Thatcher as leader. Maybe she would have a two or three-month honeymoon period, but his stock would then fall. Despite the brouhaha, the message of most of the polls is that Mrs Thatcher's stock is already rising. The *NMR/Independent* on Sunday put the Conservatives with Mrs Thatcher only two points behind Labour. That is nothing for a Tory MP to be afraid of at this stage.

In April 1986, a Gallup poll put Labour ahead by 10.5 per cent. That May, Labour's lead was still 9.5 per cent. By January 1987, Gallup still recorded a 5 point lead for Labour, with the Conservatives at a wretched 34.5 per cent. In the run-up to the last election there were the usual complaints about Mrs Thatcher's style and her alleged unpopularity. In June 1987, she scored 42.2 per cent against Labour's 30.3 per cent, with a majority of 146 seats over Labour and of more than 100 against all comers.

All the indicators are that much the same will happen next time if Mrs Thatcher leads. As inflation drops, house prices begin to rise and mortgages feel less hard-done-by, the additional unpopularity Mrs Thatcher suffers as head of a temporarily unpopular government will be reversed. And it is likely that her personal popularity will again exceed that of her party, as it has in the past. As the extra money now being spent on ameliorating the worst cases of hardship percolates through, the community charge will no longer seem the ogre now depicted. Also, the uniform business rate will be recognised as enlightened, compassionate redistribution between areas with near full employment and areas with heavy unemployment. In Wigan, for example, businesses, such as the Tote's new credit operation, are flooding in and cutting unemployment (previously 22 per cent) because business rates there are now much lower than in the prosperous South.

I hope Tory MPs will take a cool look at the undignified mess their strange electoral process has landed them in. Mr Humphry Berkeley, then a Tory MP, said it was democracy *par excellence* to an unsuspecting Tory party. In 1966, having lumbered his colleagues with it, he joined Labour; then he tried the SDP, and afterwards went back to Labour, less than two years ago. Labour would never tolerate a contest against a Labour prime minister unless a majority at a party conference first allowed it to be set in motion. Labour delegates would be as unlikely to approve such an attempt as a Tory party conference.

Lord St John of Fawley, an expert on Bagehot and the constitution, is certain that allowing Mr

Heseltine to challenge Mrs Thatcher is unconstitutional. "Reigning prime ministers cannot be removed from office against their will save by one thing — a vote of no confidence on the floor of the Commons." If Mrs Heseltine or anyone else defeats her in a ballot of Tory MPs, we may depend upon it that this would be her position.

Her nature is such that she would reasonably claim that the electorate made her prime minister and it is only the electorate that has the right to depose her, unless she is defeated on a parliamentary vote of confidence. That would put Tory MPs in a worse pickle than now, particularly as it would be difficult to refuse her right to request a dissolution and a general election.

Between being leader of a party and prime minister there is a great distinction. Churchill became Tory leader only six months after he became prime minister, which he did at the same age as Mrs Thatcher is now. There was no loss of vigour in him, and the signs of it in Mrs Thatcher are remote.

The Delors plan for a single currency and a supreme independent European central bank was proposed before the upheavals in Eastern Europe. Essentially it is for a narrow, inward-looking, European community of 12 imposing trade barriers against the rest of Europe and the world. Mrs Thatcher is the best European of them all, seeing that we must make room in the EC for all democratic European states whether in EFTA or previously behind the Iron Curtain — perhaps even the Soviet Union, or elements of it, one day — if the true ideal of embracing all Europe is to be achieved. That is a grand vision of the future, not a mean one rooted in the past.

Mrs Thatcher still has much to do to ensure the advance and permanence of her radical revolution from which her Tory opponents hope to benefit while rejecting the only source so far available for keeping it on track. Removing Mrs Thatcher would not only irrevocably split the Tory party for years but would alienate millions of non-Tories who support her because they do not see her as an old-style, consensus, fudging Tory.

Mrs Thatcher will not go voluntarily before the next election. After that she may feel that someone in her mould, such as John Major, has matured enough to succeed her. If she is not the Tory prime ministerial candidate at the election, I, for what it is worth, would feel obliged to advise my millions of *News of the World* readers to vote for Mr Kinnoch.

I would be far from being alone in this approach. If Tory MPs do not today give her a substantial majority, avoiding a second ballot, they will be signing their own political death warrants. Voting tactically would be to play the Berkeley bluff.

Let her win today, then step down

Ronald Butt

The contest for the Conservative leadership has the overtones of genuine tragedy, threatening the downfall of one of the greatest peacetime prime ministers of this century. It has happened because Mrs Thatcher, having lost the knack of treating her cabinet as near-equals during her early battles to reform the nation's economy and society against the resistance of some colleagues, has never learned to change her style since. She is now paying the penalty exacted throughout history from leaders who come to believe that their past success has made them invincible.

Mrs Thatcher is defending herself against an attempted *coup d'état*, albeit one backed by votes instead of swords or guns. She is now faced by an alliance of affronted former colleagues and others who were slighted and rebuffed in the days of her ascendancy, led by a challenger whose naked ambition to reach the top has been the hallmark of his politics. Even if Mrs Thatcher beats Mr Heseltine in the first round of the leadership election today or wins in the second round, the divisions that have been

created in the Tory party are now such that it is highly questionable whether she can or should continue as leader until the general election. But if she goes, it should not be in such a way as this.

There are fundamental differences between her challenge to Edward Heath and Mr Heseltine's to her. Mr Heseltine has consistently given the impression of a man whose signs have been rigidly set on attaining power, the policies he advances being the tools rather than the cause of his ambition. Mrs Thatcher, in contrast, sought power in a cause (a free society and economy) because there was no other candidate and when the party was newly in opposition. That cause remains for her a disinterested crusade even though she has been wrongly persuaded by 11 years of power that she alone is capable of sustaining it.

If she is forced out as a result of this election, several inimical consequences for the Tory party will follow. To start with, it would be the first overthrow of a prime minister in office by a secret vote of the governing party's backbenchers instead of by defections in an open parliamentary vote or

the break-up of a coalition, either of which would lead to a general election. This is a quasi-presidential election, but one restricted to a single party. The danger is that Tory MPs, forgetting the Burkean principle that they are representatives who should trust to their own instinct and judgment, will go for the candidate whom the deluging voices of the opinion polls say will win the next election.

If they do so, they may unleash a temporary onrush of euphoric interest in the Tory party but in the longer run the public will realise that Mr Heseltine's election would change nothing substantial in terms of policy before the election and would do nothing to heal the divisions which have to be healed for a further Tory victory. Indeed, a Heseltine victory would bring the party much nearer to a fatal split on Europe.

So far, Europe has only been the trigger for this contest, the ammunition employed being largely the personal resentment of some politicians and the public grievances on domestic policy (especially the

poll tax and interest rates). But there is still a massive cache of political dynamite labelled "Europe" beneath the Tory party, and a Heseltine victory would be far more likely than a Thatcher victory to explode it.

The issue between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine and Sir Geoffrey Howe is this. Is Britain to commit itself to set out for a destination called monetary union whose climate and terrain is unknown and with unacceptable consequences for national sovereignty? Or is it to wait, as Mrs Thatcher wants, until the destination is established more clearly? The ultimate question is whether a central monetary authority is possible without an offsetting central political authority and what the latter would mean for each member nation.

It is not a matter of what is contemporaneously called narrow national sovereignty. What matters is to preserve the rights of nation states sharing a common political culture within a given territory because they best provide manageable units of democratic accountability.

Mrs Thatcher instinctively grasps this, which is her strength.

Her weakness is that she has repeatedly damaged her cause by expressing it in terms suggesting a temperamental disposition to dislike continentalers. If she were defeated by Mr Heseltine I do not believe she would take to the lecture circuit or the Lords. She would fight her cause on Europe from the backbenches and she would have followers enough to split the party if she saw the need. The dynamite could be ignited and the Tory party not merely divided but perhaps broken in Corn Law style. Mr Kinnoch would be the sole beneficiary.

There is no healing prospect in Mr Heseltine's candidature, and if they are wise the Conservatives will re-elect Mrs Thatcher. They would have reason for shame and regret if in a panic they dismissed her now for no clear cause. But if she and her supportive colleagues are also wise, they will then set about the process by which she vacates the prime ministership well before the general election so that someone who embodies the best of what she stands for can be chosen, not in a *coup d'état*, but in a contest for the succession that is unblemished.

Bernard Levin

Frittering away their lives for a little sham authority

Kindly settle down, preferably with a stiff drink in hand, and listen to this extraordinary account: I took it, word for word, from *The Times* Diary.

... he is reckoned to have spent at least £100,000 a year on his unofficial campaign, since he stalked out of the cabinet in June 1986... he often addresses four Conservative associations a week, sometimes at opposite ends of the country... Friday evenings, a favourite for Tory meetings, are booked up 12 months in advance and he does not have a spare lunchtime date till February. Every weekday evening throughout parliamentary sessions is booked for dinners with backbench colleagues or Tory pressure groups...

Obviously, it is Mr Heseltine who is being described, if only because it is unlikely that any other MP could afford £100,000 a year on any kind of campaign, let alone one that is as likely to fail as to succeed... and indeed much likelier. Leave the money out of it; Mr Heseltine can easily afford it. (His fortune, reckoned in tens of millions, he made himself.) But just look at the life he leads. How would you like it, if being four constituency parties addressed in a week, every Friday booked a year ahead, dinner to useful colleagues and pressure groups every weekday evening in the session and no empty lunchtime spaces in your diary till February?

It is impossible. No human being could stand it; the mayors' greetings alone would have killed him years ago, never mind the travel. Either he is one of identical triplets who secretly share the burden, or he is a Thing from Outer Space. Whichever it is, we must probe further. However the trick is done, the important question is: what is it done for?

We have all known the answer for many years, not least because he has never attempted to disguise his ambition. Very well; I don't want to be prime minister, and I dare say you don't either; if you have any sense, but Mr Heseltine is entitled — he is a politician, after all, and few politicians can resist advancement — to follow his star, and to do so with all the fervour he can summon up, which, in view of the schedule he follows, must be considerable. He has measured the

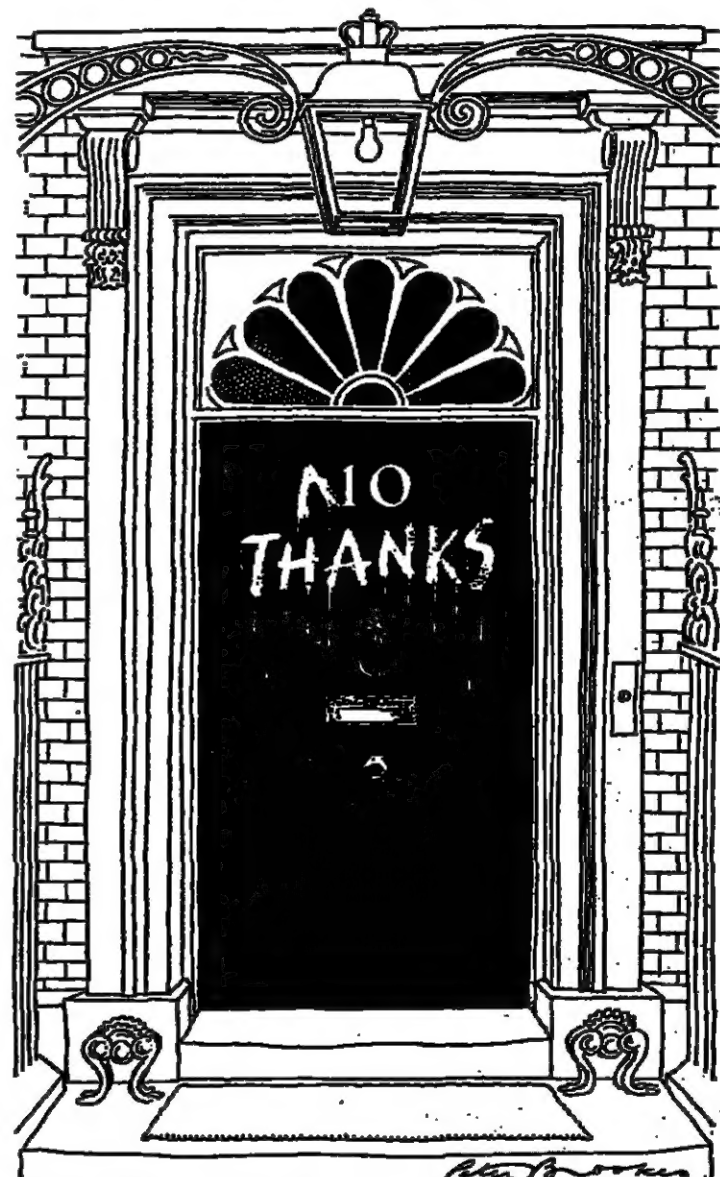
ground; but what kind of a life must he lead in his chase after this unreal and all but worthless quarry, a jack-o'-lantern that has led so many ambitious men (and at least one woman I know of) into the woods, there to quench their burning hopes in the slime of the quagmire which is all that can be found at the end of the trail?

Well, what kind of a life? When did he last spend a long weekend in Rome, just for pleasure? When did he last go to the theatre? When did he last cancel an engagement, on a whim, to take his wife out to dinner?

Easily answered, those questions, are they? More important, things... never was much of a playgoer... Anne doesn't care for restaurants. Try a few more, starting with those four Tory associations addressed week in and week out. These must comprise, as to perhaps 97 per cent of their number, bores so dreadful, so implacable, so clinging, so monomaniac, so vacant of mind, face and bearing, that any man with even the slightest residue of sensitivity left in his make-up would, after half an hour of them, go to the lavatory, lock himself in, and cut his throat. (Note that I say nothing of the unimaginable filth that passes for food at such gatherings, together with wine that can take the enamel off your teeth with the first sip.)

As for those backbenchers who feed nightly at his cost throughout the parliamentary year, it must be worse still. Imagine being obliged to be not just polite, but attentive, sympathetic and admiring to creatures that have not crawled out of the woodwork because no self-respecting woodwork would have allowed them to crawl in in the first place. Imagine laughing at their jokes, remembering the names of their wives and mistresses, pretending not to notice that they are drunk, shoving expensive cigars into their faces. Surely a hook, a noose and a kitchen chair would be preferable to such waking nightmares?

It is not enough to say that he doesn't agree, and there's nowt so queer as folks. Heseltine is an intelligent and far-seeing man, and he knows that the horrors a prime minister has to embrace are much worse than what he has had to



endure in the cause of his advancement. Yet he wants the job so badly that he has put up with that punishing routine for years, and is plainly willing to put up with a far more grueling one.

Why? To stand next to the Queen at the Cenotaph? To mingle with his opposite numbers at European conferences more boring than the Tory associations and to shake hands with delegates more dreadful than his own backbenchers? To unveil statues which

would have been much better left veiled? To my hands hover over the keyboard, unwilling to descend — to get into the history books? Dear God, when did he last read a history book?

And what about her? She has had 11 years of it, and she wants more. In that decade she has certainly experienced every atom of the disillusion that comes to those who imagined "Can I do this, and cannot get a crown? Tut, were it further off, I'd pluck it

down") that the view from 10 Downing Street would be utterly different from anything the tenant had hitherto seen, filled with vistas of a world new-made. Well, now she knows, as her predecessors found out, that the only vista she can see is the roof of the Foreign Office.

Harold Macmillan, whose elevation was achieved by a brutality, cunning and greed for power normally met only in convalesces of Mafia capi, said, after he had climbed the greasy pole and pushed all his rivals off (takes out handkerchief containing concealed onion) that the whole thing was Dead Sea Fruit. Even he, who had revelled in the post more than any other prime minister since Disraeli, found that the glittering prizes were made not of diamonds, nor even convincing paste, but glass.

And yet she will slug it out with Heseltine, and if it goes to a second round, Hurd will push his nose in, and so will half a dozen more people almost as terrible as he, who know they have no chance but think they are putting down markers for the next round a few years hence.

I ask again: what is it for? To acquire power? They can have none that merits the word. To garner the admiration of the masses? Even here ran out a year or two ago. To have Britain shake the world? As well expect Botswana to do so. To find their memoirs and diaries serialised in *The Sunday Times*? We have long since learned how to skip.

I return to Mr Heseltine, where I started. Suppose she beats him, but not by a knockout. Suppose, therefore, he continues to pursue the ambition he has nursed with such grisly assiduity. Suppose he is in opposition after the next election. Can he really go on with that dreadful self-torture in the hope that his time will, after yet another one or two administrations — come at last? Suppose it doesn't, and he realises it has all been wasted? Worse, suppose it does, and he inherits the crown, and then realises that it has all been wasted?

Enough. My advice to the lot of them is to give it to Critchley.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I don't know if you caught my act last Saturday. I had a pretty good crowd, because it was a pretty good act, but when you are a performer, you have to concentrate on your performance, you must not look around the audience for people you know, because if you catch their eye it can throw you. Also, the light wasn't too good. You know how it is on a November afternoon in Budapest, the sun sinks early, the fog comes up off the Danube, and before the performer knows it, the audience has begun to blend into the grey, baroque backdrop. Which is why you have to have a good act. If you have a lousy act, and nobody shrieks or cheers, by about 4pm there is no way of knowing whether you have an audience at all. They might all have ambled off to watch the King of the Parrots.

We had a good act. Want to know just how good it was? By the end we had more than 600 forints in the pig. That's how good it was. These are tough times in Hungary, and nobody puts a forint in a pig unless the act is a real winner. The pig was tied to my partner's leg. It was a small pink pig with a slot in its back, and it was luminous. Because I do not speak Hungarian, I could not ask my partner whether it was luminous so that he could see where it went if anyone tried to take advantage of the fog to cut the string and run away with it, but I didn't have to. As I say, times are tough in Hungary, and a pigful of forints is not to be sneezed at.

The King of the Parrots did not have a pig. You had to put your forint into one of his parrots. These were bolted on his barrel-organ, another smart move, especially as the barrel-organ was bolted to his bicycle. To nick his forints, you would first have to kidnap the King of the Parrots, which is almost certainly a major offence.

Earlier, I had watched all this boiling take place. I had walked up Castle Hill, on the Buda side of the Danube, to the vast cobbled square between the Coronation Church and the

Fisherman's Bastion where the citizens of Budapest promenade to watch the acts, and I had seen the King of the Parrots arrive on his bicycle. You could not tell he was a king, then, because he had not yet taken his top hat from his saddlebag, nor put on his white silk scarf and his white silk gloves, nor, of course, bolted his parrots to the barrel-organ. Then you knew. He had majesty. Poitacine, true, but majesty none the less.

He did not, however, have much of an act. The barrel organ played one tune, and the parrots wings flapped a bit, and that was it. A thick edge over Bernard Manning, but that was about all you could say for it. After five minutes, I moved on. What I moved on to was another figure in a top hat (how much capitalist millinery survived half a century of communism is another question you can't ask if you don't speak Hungarian). The second figure had not only a top hat, but a frock coat and huge clown-boots, to one of which the luminous pig was shackled. When you put a forint in his pig, he bowed, his top hat opened, and a gonk waddled at you.

Minimalist stuff, but it was all he did. Until I arrived.

When I arrived, he beckoned me over. Then he mimed lustre, pointing at mine. I did not have a topper, but I had my brown fedora. I raised it to him. He drew me alongside. I twiggled: he wanted a double act. Since it might well have been a lifetime's dream, who could refuse? He did not have much of a crowd, but the next time one of them put a forint in the pig, the gonk waddled, I raised my hat. We were a sensation. A mob gathered. And lest you jump to the conclusion that there is not much to do in Budapest of a Saturday, let me tell you we were a class act. Synchronised swimming didn't come close. The only pity was that the partner-pig had to break up, but this happens in show business. Especially if one half is on a day trip to Budapest and has to get back to Gatwick.

It was a terrific day. £129 is a small price to pay for stardom.

Guess what's on telly...

Both the BBC and ITN have detailed contingency plans for television coverage if Mrs Thatcher is defeated or forced to stand down after today's leadership election. Programmes such as *EastEnders* might be cancelled to make way for specials on the end of Thatcherism and the history of the last 11 turbulent years. Among the politicians on standby are former prime ministers Edward Heath and Lord Callaghan as well as Lords Whitelaw and Carington. They have provided details of their likely movements, and their phone numbers, so that they will be available for instant comment.

Armies of researchers at the BBC and at ITN have been putting together footage for use in television tributes to Mrs Thatcher. The BBC is at an advantage. The result will be announced while *The Six O'Clock News* is on the air; ITN will be restricted to a newflash inserted into regional programmes. The BBC can take an instant decision to extend or cancel programmes; on the commercial channel, 15 companies have to be consulted. But ITN is determined not to let the BBC make all the running.

Neither side will finalise the format of any special tributes until after the voting figures have been analysed. For the BBC, Peter Sissons will present an election special at 7 o'clock, which will last

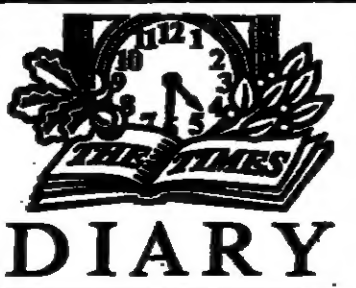
has survived, but will be extended to an hour if she has lost. The *Nine O'Clock News* would probably also be extended.

Whatever the result, Michael Heseltine will be available to the cameras, as will members of Mrs Thatcher's camp. But broadcasters are pessimistic about the chances of getting the lady herself if things go badly for her. A BBC insider says: "The feeling is that we will not get Mrs Thatcher. She will want to sleep on the result before making a statement." But, he adds: "If she wins convincingly we might get a few words." More than a few, some suspect.

National failing

With the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Barbican* home in darkness for at least the next four months, how fares that other centre of London theatrical excellence, the National? None too well, according to Lady Soames, its chairman.

Appointed two years ago, she has spent her time investigating every nook of the building and found it seriously lacking. Perhaps taking her cue from the character in the National's current production of David Hare's *Racing Demon* who observes how difficult it would be to worship an architect, Lady Soames says: "It's a grotty building. It is running down and the air-conditioning is faulty." What money is available is channelled to safety measures and mending a leaking roof, but she believes a much more radical renewal of the



Most seriously, a creaking building is beginning to affect productions. "The revolving stage mechanism at the Olivier has twice broken down in the middle of *The School for Scandal*, and we have had to send the audience home." Then, with a woman's eye for such detail, she adds: "And just look at the carpets in the lobbies. If they were in your drawing room you would be horrified."

Double-header

Baroness Blackstone, a Labour education spokeswoman in the House of Lords, found herself in a corner last night after appearing in BBC television's 30-minute special, *The Great Education Debate*. She was annoyed about the political leaning of others among the 200 teachers, parents and educationists who took part in the heated discussion of school standards. Despite BBC claims that the programme displayed due impartiality, she complains: "There was not a fair representation of parents, merely

So will Blackstone make the complaint official? That would be difficult. She is also chairman of the BBC's general advisory council. "I would never abuse my position," she insists.

Voting with their feet

The Commons will tonight provide a rival attraction to the Tory leadership vote. As it is being announced in committee room 12, England soccer captain Gary Lineker will be addressing the all-party football committee in room 21. And its officials are confident he will retain his turnstile appeal.

The committee is dominated by Labour members, but a good



turn-out from both sides is predicted. Tory MP Jim Lester, the secretary, says: "I shall be listening to Gary. The leadership result will travel like wildfire, but we shall

Thatcher and Heseltine supporters alike may well find the subject of Lineker's speech instructive: "The return to Europe."

Steaks Diane

After nearly a century of neglect, Spencer House in St James's regained something of its glory as one of London's finest 18th-century palaces last night when 500 guests gathered to toast its restoration. Chief among them was the Princess of Wales, whose family leased the house to Jacob Rothschild in 1985 in return for the restoration work, which cost £16 million.

Every detail from the scarlet damask lining the ballroom to the marble fireplaces has been meticulously restored. "In the 18th century, the house was known as a phoenix because of its Roman-style decoration. It has now been reborn from its ashes," says John Hardy from Christie's, who helped with the work.

Once a rallying point for the social and political elite of the day, the house is now open to anyone — anyone, that is, who can afford £10,000, the cost of hiring it for an evening's banquet.

Only one detail escaped the vigilance of the restorers. "The kitchens were not big enough," says Hardy. "It was only recently realised that the house would need larger kitchens to cope with the amount of entertaining it is going to see." A new butler's pantry was hastily built, to the satisfaction of the head chef, Stephen Lattimer, formerly of the Claridge Club.

European armed forces move into the scrap metal business

THE 22 countries which signed the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty yesterday are now committed to the scrap business in a big way. More than 60,000 items of equipment have to be cut up, blown up or converted.

Britain's contribution to the arms scrapyard will be relatively modest. According to figures released by the Ministry of Defence yesterday, Britain will have to destroy 183 tanks and 17 armoured combat vehicles. Based on an arms share-out, agreed within Nato, Britain will not have to destroy any artillery, aircraft or helicopters, and will be allowed to increase the number of aircraft from the present 842 to

900 and the number of helicopters from 368 to 384.

The CFE treaty, published yesterday, outlines a range of options for removing tanks and other equipment from Europe. One option is to keep treaty-limited items on static display. No country will be allowed to have more than 1 per cent, or eight items, whichever is the greater, displayed for the public. Tanks will have to have their engines filled with concrete and their fuel tanks "rendered incapable of holding fuel".

To destroy a tank, the turret has to be removed and the gun barrel severed in two parts at a distance of no more than 100mm from the

The conventional forces accord, signed in Paris yesterday, outlines a range of options on how to dispose of the vast surplus equipment, Michael Evans reports

breach ring. Or the tank can be dynamited. Another possibility is destruction by smashing, in which a heavy steel wrecking ball is dropped repeatedly on to the hull and turret "until the hull is cracked in at least three separate places and the turret in at least one place".

Aircraft can be destroyed by being shot down as target drones, although no more than 200 can be

destroyed this way. The treaty also allows for "destruction by accident". For example, provided notification is given within seven days, a CFE-limited combat aircraft which crashes "shall be deemed reduced under the rules of the treaty".

Tanks and other equipment which belong to historical collections or are used solely for research and development are

excluded from the destruction programme.

The reductions in arms have to be carried out in three phases: after 16 months, at least 25 per cent of the holdings; after 28 months, at least 60 per cent; and the rest within the treaty period of 40 months.

Under article 19, any signatory has the right to withdraw from the agreement if it decides that "extraordinary events ... have jeopardised its supreme interests". This could happen if another country increased its holdings in tanks and other equipment outside the region covered by the treaty, "in such proportions as to pose an obvious threat to the

balance of forces within the area of application".

This clause was inserted, partly because of concern over the removal by the Soviet Union of up to 20,000 tanks to the region east of the Ural mountains which is outside the treaty. Yesterday James Woolsey, the American ambassador at the CFE negotiations, said in Paris: "We have discussed this with the Soviets and we're confident that the bulk of the tanks which have been withdrawn will be destroyed or converted." He said Moscow had invited a team of US experts to assess the tank withdrawal.

General John Galvin, Nato's military commander, speaking in

Böblingen, Germany, welcomed the arms reductions treaty but said that it required military structure, not just treaties, to keep the peace. He said the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe could not replace Nato and that the Western military alliance should remain intact even if the Warsaw Pact were to dissolve (Reuters reports).

He said he was concerned that Moscow was moving tanks and other equipment east of the Urals. "It amounts to thousands of pieces of equipment but I am not so concerned about that that I would say don't sign the treaty. Let's work out the problem of what's east of the Urals," he said.

Scowcroft questions data given by Moscow

By ANDREW MCWEEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE effectiveness of the historic East-West conventional arms treaty was questioned yesterday only hours after 23 nations had signed it in Paris.

The Soviet Union declared fewer artillery pieces and military sites than expected, suggesting that the treaty may not after all lead to the greatest peaceful destruction of weapons in history. It was already known that Moscow had withdrawn large numbers of tanks east of the Ural mountains to remove them from the area covered by the treaty. The West has also removed some of its armaments.

Brent Scowcroft, the United States national security adviser, said that Washington was questioning the data provided by the Soviet Union under the Conventional Arms in Europe (CFE) treaty, signed by the 16 Nato and seven Warsaw Pact nations.

"We do have some questions about the initial data that they have given and it looks like there may be some problems there," he said in a television interview. The signatories exchanged huge quantities of data on their weapons when the treaty was initiated in Vienna on Sunday. David Short of Basic, a British-American research group, said the United States had expected Moscow to declare about 5,000 artillery pieces but it proved to be just over 500.

There was also concern over whether the Soviet data will prevent verification arrangements from working as intended. Each side will be able to visit the other's military facilities to check that the treaty is observed, but the number of visits allowed will depend on the number of military facilities that each party declared.

The United States expected the Soviet Union to declare about 2,000 sites, but according to Mr Short it was under 1,000. It also appeared that Moscow had moved even more tanks east of the Urals than expected.

The Soviet moves were not unexpected and do not mean that Washington will regard the treaty as worthless. American negotiators will put pressure on Moscow to make good deficiencies in data.

James Woolsey, chief American negotiator to CFE, said there was a 90-day period

during which data could be adjusted. "We expect ... with an unprecedented data exchange of this sort, for there to be mistakes, incomplete pieces of information."

The Soviet Union had assured the United States it would destroy the bulk of the equipment withdrawn from Europe or convert it for peaceful use. "It would be premature for me at this point to say anything more about this issue. It's an important one. It's a serious one. It's one we're taking very much into consideration," he said.

Mr Scowcroft said the problems did not devalue the importance of the treaty which still eliminated the Soviet Union's conventional arms advantage over Nato in Europe.

Britain will lose 183 tanks and 17 armoured combat vehicles under the treaty, reducing main battle tanks from 1,198 to 1,015 and armoured combat vehicles from 3,193 to 3,176. No cuts in combat aircraft, helicopters or artillery will be needed as the figures allowed are either more than or the same as those currently deployed.

The treaty allows Britain to retain 900 combat aircraft and 384 helicopters. It currently has 842 and 368 respectively.

As some Phantom and Buccaneer aircraft are to be scrapped, the figures will allow for the introduction of the European Fighter Aircraft in the late 1990s, as well as a new attack helicopter, currently under consideration. The treaty will have no effect on artillery as Britain currently possesses 636 pieces - the figure specified by the pact.

PARIS - The foreign ministers of 34 countries will meet in Berlin next year as part of a new political framework for Europe, the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, said yesterday.

Mr Kohl said heads of state and government attending the CSCE summit had agreed to hold the first of what will be annual meetings, as a political council for Europe, on June 19 and 20. Under a "Charter of Paris for a New Europe" to be signed by the summit on Wednesday, the annual foreign ministers' meetings will be the central forum for political consultations within the CSCE process.



Bashed, bothered and bewildered: James Baker has the ear of an apparently weary President Bush at the Paris summit, while Helmut Kohl remains steadfastly poker-faced

Accord lays down obligations and rights of 22 signatories

FOLLOWING are extracts from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, signed yesterday by the 16 Nato and seven Warsaw Pact members:

1 Each state party shall carry out the obligations set forth in this treaty in accordance with its provisions, including those obligations relating to the following five categories of conventional armed forces: battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft and combat helicopters ...

The term "group of states parties" means the group of states parties that signed the Treaty of Warsaw of 1955 consisting of People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland, Romania, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or the group of states parties that signed or acceded to the Treaty of Brussels of 1948 or the Treaty of Washington of 1949 consisting of the Kingdom of Belgium, Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Iceland, the Italian Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Norway, the Portuguese Republic, the Kingdom of Spain, the Republic of Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The term "area of application" means the entire land territory of the states parties in Europe from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural mountains, which includes all the European island territories of the states parties ... In the case of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the area of application includes all territory lying west of the Ural river and the

Caspian Sea. In the case of the Republic of Turkey, the area of application includes territory north and west of a line extending from the point of intersection of the Turkish border with the 39th parallel to Muradiye, Patnos, Karayazi, Tekman, Kemaliye, Feki, Ceyhan, Dogankent, Gozce, and thence to the sea ...

2 Within the area of application ... each state party shall limit and, as necessary, reduce its battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft and attack helicopters so that, 40 months after entry into force of this treaty and thereafter, for the group of states parties to which it belongs ... the aggregate numbers do not exceed:

- 13,300 battle tanks;
- 20,000 armoured combat vehicles;
- 13,700 pieces of artillery;
- 5,150 combat aircraft;
- 1,500 attack helicopters.

3 Reductions shall be effected in three phases and completed no later than 40 months after entry into force of this Treaty, so that:

- By the end of the first reduction phase, that is, no later than 16 months after entry into force of this Treaty, each state party shall have ensured that at least 25 per cent of its total reduction liability in each of the categories of conventional armaments and equipment limited by the treaty has been reduced;
- By the end of the second reduction phase, that is, no later than 28 months after entry into force of this Treaty, each State Party shall have ensured that at least 60 per cent of its total reduction liability in each of the categories of

artillery not in active units shall be placed in designated permanent storage sites ...

With the objective of ensuring that no single state party possesses more than approximately one-third of the conventional armaments and equipment limited by the Treaty within the area of application, each state party shall limit and, as necessary, reduce its battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft and attack helicopters so that, 40 months after entry into force of this treaty and thereafter, the numbers within the area of application for that state party do not exceed:

- 13,300 battle tanks;
- 20,000 armoured combat vehicles;
- 13,700 pieces of artillery;
- 5,150 combat aircraft;
- 1,500 attack helicopters.

4 Reductions shall be effected in three phases and completed no later than 40 months after entry into force of this Treaty, so that:

- By the end of the first reduction phase, that is, no later than 16 months after entry into force of this Treaty, each state party shall have ensured that at least 25 per cent of its total reduction liability in each of the categories of conventional armaments and equipment limited by the treaty has been reduced;
- By the end of the second reduction phase, that is, no later than 28 months after entry into force of this Treaty, each State Party shall have ensured that at least 60 per cent of its total reduction liability in each of the categories of

conventional armaments limited by the Treaty have been reduced;

□ By the end of the third reduction phase, that is, no later than 40 months after entry into force of this treaty, each state party shall have reduced its total reduction liability in each of the categories of conventional armaments and equipment limited by the Treaty ...

5 The reduction process, including the results of the conversion of conventional armaments and equipment limited by the treaty for non-military purposes both during the reduction period and in the 24 months following the reduction period, shall be subject to inspection, without right of refusal ...

For the purposes of ensuring verification of compliance with the provisions of this treaty, each state party shall provide notifications and exchange information pertaining to its conventional armaments and equipment ...

For the purpose of ensuring verification of compliance with the provisions of this treaty, each state party shall have the right to conduct, and the obligation to accept, within the area of application, inspections ...

The purpose of such inspections shall be:

- To verify, on the basis of the information provided ... the compliance of states parties with the numerical limitations ...
- To monitor the process of reduction of battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft and attack heli-

copters carried out at reduction sites ...

□ To monitor the certification of recategorised multi-purpose attack helicopters and reclassified combat-capable trainer aircraft ...

□ To promote the objectives and implementation of the provisions of this treaty, the states parties hereby establish a joint consultative group ...

□ Each state party shall have the right to raise before the joint consultative group, and have placed on its agenda, any issue relating to this treaty ...

6 The states parties, after signature of this treaty, shall continue the negotiations on conventional armed forces with the same mandate and with the goal of building on this treaty ...

The objective for these negotiations shall be to conclude an agreement on additional measures aimed at further strengthening security and stability in Europe, and pursuant to the mandate, including measures to limit the personnel strength of their

conventional armed forces within the area of application. The states parties shall seek to conclude these negotiations no later than the follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to be held in Helsinki in 1992.

7 This treaty shall be of unlimited duration. It may be supplemented by a further treaty.

Each state party shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from this treaty if it decides that extraordinary events related to the subject matter of this treaty have jeopardised its supreme interests ...

Forty-six months after entry into force of this treaty, and at five-year intervals thereafter, the depositary shall convene a conference of the states parties to conduct a review of the operation of this treaty ...

8 This treaty shall be subject to ratification by each state party in accordance with its constitutional procedures. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the government of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, hereby designated the depositary.

9 This treaty shall enter into force ten days after instruments of ratification have been deposited by all states parties ...

Generals relaunch communism

From DESSA TREVISAN AND RICHARD BASSETT IN BELGRADE

SEVERAL retired Yugoslav army generals yesterday formed a new hard-line communist party, resurrecting the old League of Communists and fuelling fears of an eventual military coup.

The League collapsed earlier this year at the ruling party congress during which the delegation of Yugoslavia's northern republic of Slovenia walked out. Since then communists in Croatia have dropped the name communist as well as its ideology. Slovene communists did the same and both parties have since suffered defeat at free elections, losing to right-wing nationalist parties. In Serbia, however, the communist party renamed itself the Socialist party but preserved its tightly centralised structures and ideology.

The new military party has emerged in a conspiratorial fashion. Its programme of action was worked out during a series of clandestine meetings between senior services chiefs and retired communist politicians, including the defence minister, General Veljko Kadijevic, a Serb.

Dark horse adds pep to presidential race

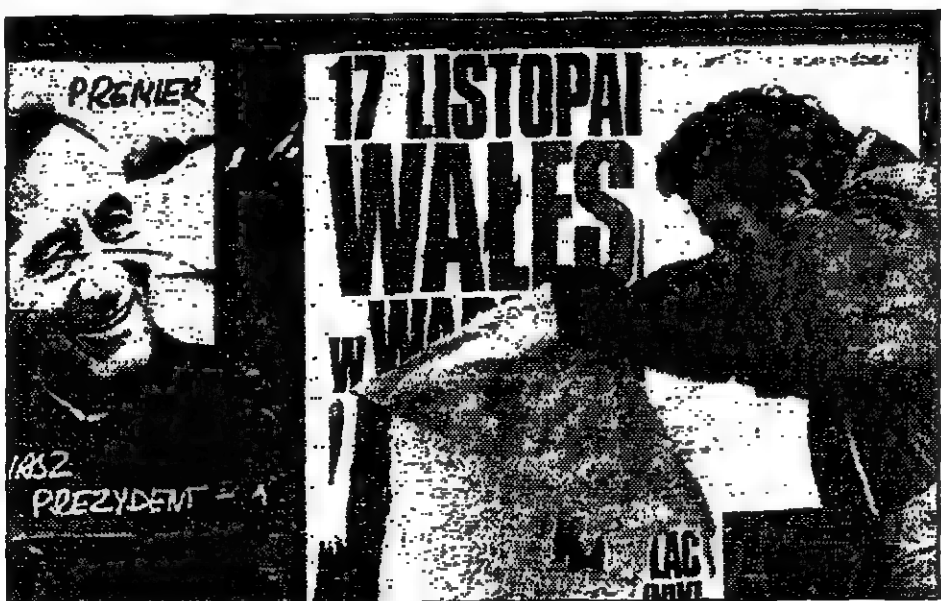
From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

A MYSTERIOUS Polish-Canadian millionaire looks set to capture a large number of votes in the presidential elections on Sunday, upsetting the chances of Lech Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the prime minister.

Stanislaw Tyminski, a businessman aged 42, is now running a strong third in the race to replace General Wojciech Jaruzelski. Opinion polls vary, and some of their sampling may be suspect, but it is plain that Mr Tyminski commands about 18 per cent of the vote, only some five or six per cent behind Mr Mazowiecki. Mr Walesa is still ahead of the field with around 40 per cent.

But to win in the first round this weekend, the successful candidate needs to scoop up at least 50 per cent of the vote. Mr Tyminski, a complete outsider, is making this extremely difficult. If the election goes to a second round, then Mr Tyminski will probably strike a deal with either Mr Walesa or Mr Mazowiecki in return for his chunk of the votes.

The other minor candidates, from the Peasants party, from the Social Democrats (the renamed communists) and from the nationalist Confederation for an Independent Poland, are so far behind Mr Tyminski that they have lost most of their



Torn loyalties: A campaign poster for Lech Walesa is ripped down in Warsaw

bargaining powers. The campaign staffs of Mr Mazowiecki and Mr Walesa are thus scrambling to find information, preferably damaging from their point of view, about Mr Tyminski. Apart from information which he himself has offered, very little is known about him.

He left Poland in 1969, first for Sweden and then for Canada, where he set up a successful computer company. Later he moved to Peru and made - and, according to some versions, lost - a fortune. Mr Tyminski is invested in

a cable television network. He married a Peruvian who has appeared on Polish television as a potential first lady. She speaks only a little Polish.

In 1985 he returned to Canada and entered politics in a small way, heading the Libertarian party with a following of about 3,000. This is not the classic profile of an aspiring Polish politician. All the non-socialist candidates for the presidency were interested after martial law: some, such as Mieczyslaw Moczar, of the Confederation for an Independent Poland, served many years in prison.

Until now Mr Tyminski has had no influence on Polish politics, no connections with the underground opposition or the communist regime. He is a Polish citizen (and apparently a Canadian and Peruvian) but he has no other foothold in the country. Yet he managed with some ease to cross the first hurdle of the campaign, gathering 100,000 signatures of support.

His appeal may be precisely this lack of political background. He is a man who has clean hands. Jerzy Urban, the former government spokesman who is now the proprietor and editor of a weekly journal, judges that Mr Tyminski may also be appealing to the female vote since he combines reasonably good looks with great wealth.

But he also strikes a populist chord. Unlike Mr Walesa and Mr Mazowiecki, who agree that rapid privatisation is the next stage in the post-communist revolution, Mr Tyminski says that privatisation means "selling the national assets to foreign capital".

In his speeches, this quintessential businessman says that the threat to Poland now comes not from the East but from the West.

His political advisers may have told him that he is appearing too nice, too pleasant. That appears to be the only explanation for an outburst at a rally in Zakopane. He told the crowd there that Mr Mazowiecki had betrayed the nation and deliberately faked the country's economic statistics. "The recession and inflation are at least 50 per cent higher than officially reported," he claimed.

The prime minister's staff have released furious denials and Mr Mazowiecki declared: "The statement breaches any elementary sense of responsibility." That is as close as Mr Mazowiecki comes to passion on the subject.

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Following a silk road in the Nineties

From furnishing fabrics to silk shirts, and cupboards to cardigans, the distinction between fashion and interior design is being blurred

If it was denim for the casual Seventies and linen for the tailored Eighties, washed silk — at once luxurious and practical — is the fabric for the realistic Nineties.

In Britain, we have seen so far only the down-market end of the look, in the wrinkled washed silk which swamped the shops last summer but somehow lost the essential characteristic of opulence. In America, L'Zinger International, creator of the Go Silk label, has established washed silk as a must-have fabric over the past few years, and far from sacrificing quality has actually managed to enhance it, creating — by a secret process involving washing with chemicals, pebbles and sand — what feels like a new material.

An irresistibly tactile fabric, it has the feel of a very fine chambray, and has the weight to hang and drape beautifully. Now Go Silk has consolidated its position in the market by signing up Timmy Fowler, the British textile designer, to supply print designs for four shirt collections a year.

For Sue Timney and Grahame Fowler, who have built up their business together since leaving the Royal College of Art textile department in 1978, washed silk is the perfect medium for their intricate designs, until now largely confined to furnishing fabrics in black and white. "There's a subtle difference between ordinary printed silk and washed printed silk," Ms Timney says. "It has a timeless feel; it could almost be an antique fabric. And of course there's the utilitarian aspect, the fact that though it is a coloured print and silk, you can still wash it — even though the labels recommend dry cleaning."

The current collection, fast disappearing from Timmy Fowler's King's Road window, joins the senses of all those who still view Timmy Fowler as black and white designers, renowned for their seminal work with classical heads and columns. Designs such as Navajo Colour, Byzantium and Rub Out Carpet are typical of the wide variety of cultural and architectural influences which fire their work. Rub Out Carpet is literally that — random images of old carpet partly erased — while the architectural ornamentation of Byzantium and the decorative American Indian symbols of Navajo are superbly disciplined on chequerboards of capricious colour combinations. The few monochrome designs are predictably selling best, but it would be sad if customer intransigence dampened the spirit of such original colourists.

The shirts — priced from £125 — are sized up for men and women, and in the States sell equally to both. Here they are selling more to women, the classic big shape being ideally suited to the current vogue for leggings. But the shirts almost transcend fashion and become desirable objects of design in their own right. Timmy Fowler is a unique

company in this sense, able to bridge the world of fashion and interior design without weakening in either. With such a distinctive and intelligent style, the two partners seem to run on a track all their own, independent of the rest of the fashion world. "It's not that we are in total ignorance of what is going on in fashion," Ms Timney says: "it's rather that we run parallel to it. Like music or any of the arts, when you reach a certain level you attract a following that gives you the confidence to go on developing your own style."

They have designed prints for such leading fashion names as Issey Miyake, Martex, Rift Ozbek and Marks & Spencer. Their reputation and output in America and Japan are huge, and growing fast in Europe. Yet in Britain, they remain the designers' designers. "Yes, we would have hoped by now to have had in a leading department store the sort of Timmy Fowler boutique we have in Japan," admits Ms Timney with characteristic resignation. "It just reflects on the way things are run in this country. There are vague talks, but nobody will ever quite commit themselves, whereas in Japan they are willing to take risks. Nobody here even takes the first step — and then they wonder why things aren't moving in retail and the economy."

DINAH HALL

● The Go Silk collection is at Timmy Fowler, 368 King's Road, Chelsea, London SW3 (071-352 2263) and Browns, South Molton Street, London W1 (071-491 7833).

● Ancient and modern: right, Timmy Fowler's Colomade design on a washed silk shirt by Go Silk, £200



Fashion frontiersman: Mark Wilkinson, with matching cardigan, buckle and cabinet

Is that a kitchen you are wearing?

FASHION-conscious cooks can now have wardrobes to match their kitchens, thanks to the designer Mark Wilkinson. He is offering wool cardigans for men and women, available to order in the same tones as his turquoise, ochre and rust Santa Fe kitchen, and fastened with clasps which match its silver hinges and handles.

Next spring, the cardigan (made up by Hildi Design, of Calne, Wiltshire) will be joined by belts and boots with similarly styled buckles and clasps.

"We see things in such a blinkered way these days," Mr Wilkinson says. "Fashion has always related to furniture, Egyptian, Celtic and Gothic architectural designs were reflected in clothing and jewellery. Only quite recently have we started to see literature, architecture and fashion as separate and distinct."

Mr Wilkinson's kitchen offers a sense of comfort that is easy to live with, and is as soundly constructed as might be expected from a fifth-generation cabinet-maker. At the same time it is the capricious creation of a man who built himself a tree house in which to work, equipping it with running water, mains electricity and Gothic leaded windows.

The Santa Fe look is not meant to be confined to kitchens. Most of the free-standing furniture — dressers, sideboards, chests of drawers, tables and chairs — would suit any room in the house, and adaptations of the basic designs can include wardrobes, beds and headboards.

The arched cooler canopy is in the style of a rising sun; so is the bed headboard. A Navajo-style feather head-dress design appears on the backs of chairs and is repeated around the door architraves. A hand-carved eagle "breast-

plate" adorns a food cupboard and wardrobe, emulating the bird images decorating Hispanic pottery. Less derivative is the "bullet" carving on dressers and chests of drawers which belongs, in Mr Wilkinson's terminology, to the "Jesse James school of architecture".

The kitchen hanging rack is stepped like a ladder, which is said to be symbolic of spiritual ascension, while the traditional bindings which hold the ladders together are reinterpreted as the diamond, cross-cross webbing of the cardigan.

Mr Wilkinson's designs have been inspired by more than the frontier spirit. "I am a great admirer of Ralph Lauren," he says. "He is always half a step ahead of his nearest rival. Designing fashion and furniture is all to do with creating dreams. But the clever thing is to create a dream that people can take home."

NICOLE SWENGLEY

● Santa Fe kitchen, bedroom and living room furniture is available to order from Mark Wilkinson Furniture, Overton House, High Street, Bromham, near Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 2BA (0380 850004). Also from Mark Wilkinson showrooms at 126 Holland Park Avenue, London NW11 (071-727 3814); 13 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts (0727 40975); 4 High Street, Maidenhead, Berks (0628 767722).

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Politics on the front line of fashion

Should our politicians be dressed to kill when they are visiting the troops?

VISITING the troops in the front line can be tricky, sartorially speaking, for a politician wishing to hit just the right note with the men and women preparing themselves for war. Should you go the whole way, and adopt the combat look: flak jacket, army boots, camouflaged socks? Or, by way of admitting that a soldier is a soldier and a politician a politician, stick to the suit?

James Baker, the American secretary of state, normally noted for his navy blue suits and bright red ties, turned up to address GIs in Saudi Arabia wearing designer desert gear: sand-coloured slacks with matching short-sleeved shirt. But no hat and no sunglasses. Winston Churchill often wore a dark blue, one-piece zip suit during the war years. But it is not the sort of off-the-peg uniform in which any self-respecting minister would be seen today, particularly in the Saudi Arabian desert. Margaret Thatcher has been spotted wearing something military only twice, having donned a combat jacket in Northern Ireland in 1979, and, later, a tank driver's helmet in Germany.

The last four British defence secretaries, Sir John Nott, Michael Heseltine, George Younger and the present incumbent, Tom King, have adopted different styles when mingling with the troops. Mr King returned last week from a three-day trip to the Gulf which included a session in the desert among the crews of Challenger tanks. Unlike Mr Heseltine, famous for visiting the Greenham Common cruise missile base in a combat jacket when he was defence secretary in 1985, Mr King prefers to steer clear of military attire. In Saudi Arabia, he opted for simple blue slacks and open-neck shirt. However, he did agree to wear a floppy camouflage hat, bearing the Desert Rats badge.

One of Mr King's aides said: "He is rather reluctant to go all the way. If he is in the field, during an army exercise on Salisbury Plain, for example, he may be persuaded to put on appropriate military kit, but on the whole he likes to stay looking like a civilian." Mr King has been known, however, to produce the occasional gem during foreign

trips. While reviewing the British soldiers in Namibia he wore a fisherman's large straw hat, to the astonishment of his entourage.

Mr Heseltine has never flinched from wearing army issue uniform. On visits to the British Army of the Rhine, he tended to go for khaki combat trousers and a long-sleeved shirt, with his name emblazoned on the shirt pocket. George Younger, his immediate successor as defence secretary and a former Sutherland Highlander, looked quite at home in combat jacket. He liked army berets. Soon after becoming defence secretary, Mr Younger went to Norway to see the Royal Marine commandos engaged in arctic warfare training and raised a few eyebrows by wearing a beret from the Territorial Army section of the Royal Corps of Transport, with which he had close connections. On a visit to Northern Ireland, he donned a beret of



Fighting it out: Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine, both wearing combat jackets

the Ulster Defence Regiment. The defence ministry decided to give him a beret with a crest of the Defence Council (an august ministry body), which he wore on subsequent trips.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has no compunction about wearing full army gear, although he has never had any military training. On a recent visit to his front line he sported his usual khaki with a black beret and a revolver strapped to his right side — a military accessory not available to British political figures.

MICHAEL EVANS

SPECIAL OFFER SUSAN DUCKWORTH KNITTING KIT



British knitwear has been one of the main success stories of our fashion industry recently, and Susan Duckworth is one of the country's top designers. Her handknits sell in the smartest shops around the world for hundreds of pounds, so we are delighted to be able to offer her magnificent basketweave jersey to knitters in kit form for only £39.95. Pale pinks, oyster, silver greys and shimmering blues blend in over ten different subtle shades to make the multicoloured background, highlighted with the deeper colours of the crosses. It is knitted in 100% pure four-ply wool and the pattern to fit sizes 32-40" which gives the appearance of woven stripes of knitting, and the delicious pale-coloured make this a quite stunning garment and one that is easy to wear. The kit comes complete with buttons, pattern and enough wool for all the sizes. The kit does not contain needles. Use FREEPOST — no stamp needed.

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LET IT THROUGH
THE TIMES

Gorky's treasure rediscovered

THEATRE
Vassa Zheleznova
Gate, Notting Hill

THIS play is a real find. If Gorky had given it an easier title, such as *Wine, Women, and War*, it would have been a success long ago. Instead, he named it after the leading character, a ruthless millionaire running a vast shipping business on the Volga. Her family flung a variety of epithets her way — devil, heartless animal — but the clear-eyed daughter-in-law is the one who sees her for what she is: the archetypal capitalist boss.

Gorky wrote the play in 1910 and revised it 25 years later, a few months before his "assisted" death. In one sense, it is his last play, and the significant change between the two versions is the more coherent revolutionary fervour given to Rachel, the exiled daughter-in-law who returns illegally to claim her little son. The centrally-placed argument between Rachel and Vassa, who has hidden her grandson away to keep him safe to inherit the millions, presents a conflict between *Revolution and Greed* in bold emotional and domestic terms.

Here is a struggle for the future of a family in which we are invited to read the battle for the future of a nation. Gorky's knowledge by 1935 that the Soviet future had gone hideously wrong may explain the play's curiously abrupt ending, where the family leaders on the precipice of ruin but the last sentence is an unanswered question. A re-think on the pacing just

here would eliminate the feeling that someone has pulled the plug on the play.

The female roles are more individual than the male — even though we first meet Vassa's sordid husband about to be arrested for a crime unmentionable in other plays of the period, that of seducing little girls. Poison and bribery remove this embarrassment little difficulty. Vassa's brother is a fairly standard boozier and the other menfolk serve their function in the plot, but little more.

The women are something else. Where the elder daughter Natalya (Sarah Harper) is rotted with drink and resentment, the loopy immature younger one pleads for kindness and bubbles cherry cake: a good performance here by Kristin Hewson. Judy Sweeney lurks in dark corners and notes conversation down on her stenographer's pad, but the acting honours go to Lizzie McInerney, delicately beautiful and unfathomable as Rachel, and Paolo Dionisotti as Vassa: sardonic, belful, with sunken cheeks that make her look as if she is feeding upon herself from within.

Using a pleasant translation by Cathy Porter, Katie Mitchell's intelligent production of this forgotten treasure makes lovely use of light. She isolates a pale face against others fractionally darker; or balances one figure, Vassa entering profits in her ledger, against a tight group of all the other characters staring from a doorway. The Russian chants, strongly sung by the cast, are thrilling. Recommended.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Paolo Dionisotti in the title role of Vassa Zheleznova

THEATRE
The Witches of Pollok/
The Sweatshop
Tron/Tramway,
Glasgow

GLASGOW'S 1990 cultural splash draws to a close with two different. Anne Downie's *The Witches of Pollok* is based on a true story of bewitchment in 17th-century Glasgow and Manac's *The Sweatshop* is a piece of large-scale man-watching which attempts to understand half of humanity better. Though neither is wholly satisfactory, together they remind us of the range of theatre which 1990 has produced.

The Witches of Pollok is an intriguing piece of popular history. Written in theatrically effective, if historically inaccurate Scots, it has echoes of Miller's *The Crucible*, but saddy, Downie has eschewed sub-text and chosen not to probe deeply into the Presbyterian psyche. Instead she and Tron director Michael Boyd have created a rattling good ghost story for the theatre. To this end, much of the action is played in shadow, and great use is made of the architecture of the theatre, which is a converted church. Nick McCall's

lighting, Craig Armstrong's music and Rae Smith's design help to heighten the spine-chilling atmosphere. The witches have moments of great power, and there are two excellent performances from Irene Sauters, as a woman falsely accused of witchcraft, and Rosemary Paine as her accuser.

The Third Eye Centre's commissioning of the Cardiff-based theatre group Manac to produce *The Sweatshop* is another success for their events organisation, Nikki Millican, who has been introducing Glasgow audiences to the wider shores of performance possibilities for the last four years. A programme note which recommends to humanity *The Sweatshop* — a rite of passage sauna for adolescent American Indians — made one suspect the worst. However, the living sculptures, created by the performers and their directors, Phillip MacKenzie and Simon Thorne, proved irresistible. Whether or not their examination of men, their vanity and their relationships with each other and with their suits, says anything deep is more debatable. But the whole performance was very watchable and proved again that old theatrical adage that one cannot go wrong with 18 bearded men slow-walking to schmalz and backbit through smoke.

ALASDAIR CAMERON

RADIO
Down Your Way
Radio 4

THE original *Down Your Way* was, typically, a leisurely perambulation around the villages of Middle England, where yeomen and hayseeds and the occasional licensed eccentric were only too pleased to be interviewed about their work, their hobbies and their dwellings. Although they must have known that they were collaborating in one of the sustaining myths of the post-war years — you can see it still in old Gainsborough films — they seemed never to resent the programme's implicit paternalism. For while Franklin Engelmann or Brian Johnston may have voiced the listener's interest in the stimulating range of activities at

the new church hall, this simply masked a burning desire to inspect the residents' drains and ask if their children were getting enough vitamins.

More recently, in a more Woganised world, the presenter's shoes have been filled by "personalities" such as Nigel Kennedy (a violinist, but perhaps you knew). The current presenter is the playwright and song-writer Wally K Daly, a relentlessly gregarious man with the voice of a failed Ken Dodd impersonator. This voice has endless public-bar gambits; it has a cheery word for everyone; it can anecdotalise the world. One felt little surprise when last Sunday's *Down Your Way* (Radio 4) revealed that Daly is mousy with most of his neighbours in Margrave Gardens, London W6, and that he had organised a party to celebrate the street's centenary. At this party Daly sang some of his own compositions.

WORLD MUSIC
Yousou N'Dour
Hammersmith Palais

YOUSOU N'DOUR has been described as the first World Music superstar, as meaningless titles go, this is hard to beat and offers the remarkable Senegalese vocalist little help with the difficult task of communicating his music to a non-African audience.

Television exposure from events such as the Nelson Mandela concert has certainly highlighted N'Dour but his music needs to be heard live, played by his full band, Super Etolie de Dakar, to be appreciated for its depth and complexity. It was refreshing to discover that these qualities remain undiminished despite lavish media attention and the new, perhaps confusing demands that exert themselves over the market changes from domestic to international.

The backbone of the music is formed by two percussionists who play Senegalese drums. The concert began by featuring the rubbery sounds of the tama, a small talking drum played with dazzling skill by Assane Thiame. The tama maintained a chattering presence through material drawn from the new album, *Sei*, and previous

releases such as *The Lion and Immigrants*. For songs which do not suffer from N'Dour's recent tendencies to write rock anthems, this jittery, restless drumming was like a series of electric shocks. On compositions from *The Lion* (N'Dour's attempt at a commercial album), however, the tama occasionally sounded like an unwelcome distraction.

In fact, it was the commercial songs that were the distraction. Their catchy choruses were less appealing than the convoluted theories and baffling rhythms of N'Dour's more familiar sound. Unlike much African music, this was a concert that changed direction at a hyperactive rate. If the dancers in the audience were sometimes rendered flat-footed by a peculiar change of direction or a wildly accelerating tempo, their compensation lay in the imaginative use of interlocking rhythms and unexpected textures.

Without the central, unifying element of N'Dour's vocals and his charisma, the excitement of this constant flux might have palled, but, dependably, he was magnificent. He sang with an impressive variety of voices — high fluting sounds, rough growls and startling wails — yet technique was never allowed to supersede passion.

DAVID TOOP

In his lapel-grabbing determination to magick the locality into an urban analogue of the village, the presenter disclosed that his own house is known as "Wally's Folly". One wondered who originated this jaunty appellation: might it have been the house's owner himself? But enough of this self-promotion. "Exactly opposite lives my mum, who is affectionately known to one and all as Gary the Vicar." To begin with, Gary — a sometime winner of a competition in the *Evening Standard* to find London's best preacher — sounded reasonable enough. He had long since given up the cloth to devote himself to business. But what manner of business? "Most of business is about people and people skills," Gary explained, so his work consisted of "one-to-one coaching" of senior executives in "mind, body and spirit matters" — his approach was "holistic".

MARTIN CROPPER

NEW RELEASES

CRIMINAL MIND (15): A brilliant thriller about a smart agent entangled in the case of a mysterious psychopath. The performance (Ray O'Connell, Kevin Spacey, but the script conveys the film's style. Director, Martin Campbell. (15) 123 5000.

DARRIAN (15): Liam Neeson as a disgraced scientist seeking revenge on the criminals who destroyed his life. Directed by John Dahl. (15) 123 5000.

THE KIDNAPER (15): A thriller about a man who kidnaps a woman and her child. Directed by John Dahl. (15) 123 5000.

THE REFLECTING SKIN (15): A thriller about a man who kidnaps a woman and her child. Directed by John Dahl. (15) 123 5000.

THE HANDMAID'S TALE (15): A thriller about a man who kidnaps a woman and her child. Directed by John Dahl. (15) 123 5000.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and other indicated with the symbol (A) on release across the country.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20.

1. GYNALOPHOBIC (a) Woman-pushing. From the Greek *gyna* a woman + *phobos* a phobia: "I shall tickle open the gates — stands aside — and loose the gynolopophobic doors for a woman always respects a word she cannot spell."

2. SAIJOU (c) A capuchin monkey, from the Tami and monkey + *sai* an augmentative suffix: "The third is the saijo, distinguished from the rest of the monkeys by its yellowish, flesh-colored face."

3. GARUM (b) A sauce prepared from fermented fish, much used by the ancient Romans, from the Greek *garos*: "The famous pickle of the ancients, called garum, was made from the gills and blood of the tunny." The recipe has been lost, but it does not sound as much fun as EFP sauce.

4. SHADDOCK (d) An Oriental citrus fruit like a very large orange, especially the larger pear-shaped variety, distinguished from the finer grapefruit, also the tree that bears it, introduced to the West Indies c. 1700 by Captain Shaddock.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

1. ... Nf3 (White) — Carbone (Black), Argentine 1988. In this tricky position, the white queen is attacked, but white is threatened with a back rank mate. Can you see how White resolves the problem? Solution tomorrow.

Yesterday's solution: 1... Ch1 - 2 Ngt 3 Ch4 Rst 4 Kst 5 Kst 6 Kst 7 Kst 8 Kst 9 Kst 10 Kst 11 Kst 12 Kst 13 Kst 14 Kst 15 Kst 16 Kst 17 Kst 18 Kst 19 Kst 20 Kst 21 Kst 22 Kst 23 Kst 24 Kst 25 Kst 26 Kst 27 Kst 28 Kst 29 Kst 30 Kst 31 Kst 32 Kst 33 Kst 34 Kst 35 Kst 36 Kst 37 Kst 38 Kst 39 Kst 40 Kst 41 Kst 42 Kst 43 Kst 44 Kst 45 Kst 46 Kst 47 Kst 48 Kst 49 Kst 50 Kst 51 Kst 52 Kst 53 Kst 54 Kst 55 Kst 56 Kst 57 Kst 58 Kst 59 Kst 60 Kst 61 Kst 62 Kst 63 Kst 64 Kst 65 Kst 66 Kst 67 Kst 68 Kst 69 Kst 70 Kst 71 Kst 72 Kst 73 Kst 74 Kst 75 Kst 76 Kst 77 Kst 78 Kst 79 Kst 80 Kst 81 Kst 82 Kst 83 Kst 84 Kst 85 Kst 86 Kst 87 Kst 88 Kst 89 Kst 90 Kst 91 Kst 92 Kst 93 Kst 94 Kst 95 Kst 96 Kst 97 Kst 98 Kst 99 Kst 100 Kst 101 Kst 102 Kst 103 Kst 104 Kst 105 Kst 106 Kst 107 Kst 108 Kst 109 Kst 110 Kst 111 Kst 112 Kst 113 Kst 114 Kst 115 Kst 116 Kst 117 Kst 118 Kst 119 Kst 120 Kst 121 Kst 122 Kst 123 Kst 124 Kst 125 Kst 126 Kst 127 Kst 128 Kst 129 Kst 130 Kst 131 Kst 132 Kst 133 Kst 134 Kst 135 Kst 136 Kst 137 Kst 138 Kst 139 Kst 140 Kst 141 Kst 142 Kst 143 Kst 144 Kst 145 Kst 146 Kst 147 Kst 148 Kst 149 Kst 150 Kst 151 Kst 152 Kst 153 Kst 154 Kst 155 Kst 156 Kst 157 Kst 158 Kst 159 Kst 160 Kst 161 Kst 162 Kst 163 Kst 164 Kst 165 Kst 166 Kst 167 Kst 168 Kst 169 Kst 170 Kst 171 Kst 172 Kst 173 Kst 174 Kst 175 Kst 176 Kst 177 Kst 178 Kst 179 Kst 180 Kst 181 Kst 182 Kst 183 Kst 184 Kst 185 Kst 186 Kst 187 Kst 188 Kst 189 Kst 190 Kst 191 Kst 192 Kst 193 Kst 194 Kst 195 Kst 196 Kst 197 Kst 198 Kst 199 Kst 200 Kst 201 Kst 202 Kst 203 Kst 204 Kst 205 Kst 206 Kst 207 Kst 208 Kst 209 Kst 210 Kst 211 Kst 212 Kst 213 Kst 214 Kst 215 Kst 216 Kst 217 Kst 218 Kst 219 Kst 220 Kst 221 Kst 222 Kst 223 Kst 224 Kst 225 Kst 226 Kst 227 Kst 228 Kst 229 Kst 230 Kst 231 Kst 232 Kst 233 Kst 234 Kst 235 Kst 236 Kst 237 Kst 238 Kst 239 Kst 240 Kst 241 Kst 242 Kst 243 Kst 244 Kst 245 Kst 246 Kst 247 Kst 248 Kst 249 Kst 250 Kst 251 Kst 252 Kst 253 Kst 254 Kst 255 Kst 256 Kst 257 Kst 258 Kst 259 Kst 260 Kst 261 Kst 262 Kst 263 Kst 264 Kst 265 Kst 266 Kst 267 Kst 268 Kst 269 Kst 270 Kst 271 Kst 272 Kst 273 Kst 274 Kst 275 Kst 276 Kst 277 Kst 278 Kst 279 Kst 280 Kst 281 Kst 282 Kst 283 Kst 284 Kst 285 Kst 286 Kst 287 Kst 288 Kst 289 Kst 290 Kst 291 Kst 292 Kst 293 Kst 294 Kst 295 Kst 296 Kst 297 Kst 298 Kst 299 Kst 300 Kst 301 Kst 302 Kst 303 Kst 304 Kst 305 Kst 306 Kst 307 Kst 308 Kst 309 Kst 310 Kst 311 Kst 312 Kst 313 Kst 314 Kst 315 Kst 316 Kst 317 Kst 318 Kst 319 Kst 320 Kst 321 Kst 322 Kst 323 Kst 324 Kst 325 Kst 326 Kst 327 Kst 328 Kst 329 Kst 330 Kst 331 Kst 332 Kst 333 Kst 334 Kst 335 Kst 336 Kst 337 Kst 338 Kst 339 Kst 340 Kst 341 Kst 342 Kst 343 Kst 344 Kst 345 Kst 346 Kst 347 Kst 348 Kst 349 Kst 350 Kst 351 Kst 352 Kst 353 Kst 354 Kst 355 Kst 356 Kst 357 Kst 358 Kst 359 Kst 360 Kst 361 Kst 362 Kst 363 Kst 364 Kst 365 Kst 366 Kst 367 Kst 368 Kst 369 Kst 370 Kst 371 Kst 372 Kst 373 Kst 374 Kst 375 Kst 376 Kst 377 Kst 378 Kst 379 Kst 380 Kst 381 Kst 382 Kst 383 Kst 384 Kst 385 Kst 386 Kst 387 Kst 388 Kst 389 Kst 390 Kst 391 Kst 392 Kst 393 Kst 394 Kst 395 Kst 396 Kst 397 Kst 398 Kst 399 Kst 400 Kst 401 Kst 402 Kst 403 Kst 404 Kst 405 Kst 406 Kst 407 Kst 408 Kst 409 Kst 410 Kst 411 Kst 412 Kst 413 Kst 414 Kst 415 Kst 416 Kst 417 Kst 418 Kst 419 Kst 420 Kst 421 Kst 422 Kst 423 Kst 424 Kst 425 Kst 426 Kst 427 Kst 428 Kst 429 Kst 430 Kst 431 Kst 432 Kst 433 Kst 434 Kst 435 Kst 436 Kst 43

BRIEFING

Hello and goodbye

MORE upheaval at the Leicester Haymarket. Last Tuesday, the board of directors announced that it had appointed David Elliott (English National Opera's finance director) as the theatre's new chief executive. Three days later, Elliott withdrew from the post "for personal reasons". If he had taken up the offer, one of Elliott's first tasks would have been to help find a new artistic director to fill the void caused when Peter Lichstein departed in February. While the search for a new artistic director and chief executive goes on, Chris Ellis has been appointed acting theatre director for the next 12 months.

Know that face?

FANCY a signed photograph of Margaret Thatcher as a bonny-faced 18-year-old? Or Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the age of six, sitting on a horse? If so, take your cheque-book to Christie's tonight for a charity auction of signed photographs of the famous. Presidents Mitterrand, Gorbachev and Bush have also delved into their family photograph albums. The auction will raise money for the charity Fight Leukemia: tickets for the auction are £15 (071-589 1629).



Gorbachev: face for sale

Don't miss...

WOMEN may have broken into the once exclusive male preserve of the major symphony orchestras (except, of course, at the Vienna Philharmonic). But apparently there is still work to do. From Thursday, the organisation Women in Music stages its 1990 festival around London. Between then and December 10, more than 400 performers will be involved at over 30 venues, playing everything from rap to new age to acid house to classical. One highlight will be the London debut (at St Pancras Church on December 9) of the newly formed European Women's Orchestra. Odaline de la Martinez, who was the first woman to conduct at the Proms back in 1984 (and who is at present writing a book on the thorny subject of why women have not featured more prominently in musical history), will direct this concert.

Last chance...

EXIT *Keen* with a conquering smile. There are only five more days in which to confirm that the intellectually daunting Jean-Paul Sartre can write a fun play and that Derek Jacobi, himself a major actor, has the energy and invention to play a great one. *Keen* has run for almost four months at the Old Vic (071-928 7616). That is not necessarily because of its existential reverberations, but because of the romantic knots in which the rakish 19th-century tragedian is shown hilariously tying himself.

THEATRE

Overtures for beginners, please

Blockbuster musicals dominate the West End, but Jim Hiley argues that we are neglecting the creators of the next generation of shows

Apprentice dramatists are supported by a profusion of awards and bursaries, and a network of small companies dedicated to experimental writing. No such infrastructure exists, however, to encourage would-be makers of musicals. Yet the chance to refine their craft is as vital to composers and lyricists as to their counterparts in spoken drama. The musical is a hazardous form, whose collaborative procedures are notoriously difficult to master.

The musical can also be exceptionally rewarding, both aesthetically and commercially. Theatrical innovators from Bertolt Brecht to Stephen Sondheim have recognised that songs need not merely embellish a text, but can add multiple layers of meaning and emotion.

At the same time, audiences are potentially greater than for any other brand of theatre, and so are the box-office dividends. The impresario Cameron Mackintosh and the composer/producer Andrew Lloyd Webber are each said to be worth upwards of £60 million. But, despite their worldwide successes and the consequent benefits to HM Treasury, the British persist in neglecting tyro talents.

Until recently, the chief hope for newcomers lay in a single annual competition, the Vivian Ellis Prize, which was set up by the Performing Right Society to celebrate the veteran composer's 80th birthday. Few of the successful entries have been given a full professional production.

This year, however, several fresh initiatives have offered public exposure to the Lloyd Webbers of tomorrow. In August, four shows were staged at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, after months of specialist workshops. In September, a competition called "Quest for New Musicals" was launched by the songwriter and performer Richard Stilgoe. Eight winners will be produced at the Buxton Opera House in 1992. Since the project was launched, no fewer than 500 musicals have been submitted.

Earlier, the authors of a further eight new shows attended masterclasses at Oxford given by Stephen Sondheim, the first holder of the visiting professorship endowed by

Cameron Mackintosh. Mackintosh has also donated £400,000 to help the university build a studio theatre, where he will mount the work of two of the composer/lyricist teams tutored by Sondheim. He has also promised £1 million over the next ten years to subsidise revivals of vintage musicals by the National Theatre. Both he and the National's executive director, Genesis McIntosh, hope that the ensuing profits can be ploughed back to foster incipient talent.

Mackintosh's determination to improve the status and standard of musicals goes beyond flamboyant gestures. Every year, he studies around 200 cassette tapes or manuscripts sent by unknowns. About ten per cent might be worth encouraging. In many cases, he will summon the authors, handing out advice and, often, money.

Few such contacts result in a finished show. But Mackintosh's long-term investment policy has paid off in the case of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, who began collaborating while at Exeter University. *Just So*, their adaptation of stories by Kipling, opens this week at the Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn, with a West End transfer possible later. The show won the first Vivian Ellis Prize in 1985; its subsequent career demonstrates the exhaustive process of trial-and-error that goes to make a modern musical.

Mackintosh has named *Just So* through "try-outs" at Plymouth and the Watermill Theatre, Newbury. Both prompted bouts of soul-searching, according to George Stiles, and months of rewriting. Following the production at Newbury last summer, *Just So* acquired a completely new second act. Even last week, Stiles and Mackintosh were "locked in a

broom cupboard", rearranging a problematical number.

The composer says that Mackintosh's dedication has not only brought *Just So* to fruition. It has also transformed his partner and himself from blithe young hopefuls into professionals as single-minded as their mentor. "I now wake up in the morning and think 'I write musicals'. There's nothing else I want to do."

Mackintosh doubts that many formidable librettists and composers languish undiscovered. He points out that Stiles and Drewe are by no means the only talents to surface through the Vivian Ellis Prize. Others include Charles Hart, who went on to contribute lyrics to *Phantom of the Opera* and *Aspects of Love*; and Jason Carr, who wrote the score for *Born Again*, an adaptation of Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* staged by Peter Hall at Chichester this summer. Mackintosh also has high hopes of Timothy Sutton, an A-level student from Preston, who won this year with a dauntingly sophisticated version of *Beauty and the Beast*. Their achievements apart, he says, "the level of entries is generally lamentable".

He is detractors suggest that Mackintosh himself has made life difficult for gifted newcomers by fostering the public appetite for high-tech, high-cost extravaganzas. "Investment is being concentrated on a sort of tourist musical," says Stilgoe, "where you impress a polyglot audience with hydraulics rather than wit or passion." He admits that he has played a part in this trend, having written lyrics for *Starlight Express*, the ultimate example of engineering-as-entertainment.

Mackintosh argues that the predominance of the mega-musical has been exaggerated. It is purely coincidental, he says, that the hit composers of the past decade — Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg of *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon* — are most comfortable working on a grand scale. Much of his time lately has been spent harnessing Stiles' and Drewe's more operatic tendencies. He sees the intimacy of *Just So* as part of its "very British charm", in a tradition

Latest gambler: *Just So*, a Kipling-based show at the Tricycle, Kilburn, expected in the West End

stretching from Gilbert and Sullivan to Noel Coward.

Stilgoe, too, seeks a return to the insouciance of operetta and musical comedy. But this aim is incompatible, he believes, with the kind of fierce commitment instilled in his protégés by Mackintosh. "Cameron is running a musical stud farm. At Buxton, we're looking for 'National Velvet'."

Stilgoe's views are echoed by Howard Goodall, one of the most promising — if least fashionable — composers to have emerged during the 1980s. Goodall is most well known for his incidental television music. He came to theatrical prominence with *The Hired Man*, based on Melvyn Bragg's

Cumbrian novel, which won admiring notices but failed at the box office. His second West End show, *Girlfriends*, found scant favour with critics or the public.

Yet both productions revealed a distinctive talent, and his score for *Girlfriends* achieved an emotional depth rare in musicals. The show was dramatically inert, though, and seemed in desperate need of the Mackintosh flair. Goodall, however, prefers to avoid house methods and big-time values. "Perhaps I'm espousing an English approach that's more amateur and less disciplined, but it can also produce the most inventive and maverick work."

Goodall's choice of subject matter is certainly idiosyncratic: his

next musical will be about the Spanish Civil War. The Oxford Stage Company takes *Days of Hope* on tour in the new year, prior to a run at the Hampstead Theatre.

By then, Mackintosh hopes to see *Just So* safely ensconced in the West End, probably at Wyndham's. He believes that this latest venture will prove that he, too, can nurture fresh talent on a modest scale. Stiles and Drewe are, he insists, "the real McCoy". We will know whether his fabled judgment has held out by the end of the week.

● *Just So* is at the Tricycle Theatre, 269 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 (071-328 1000).

PRUDENTIAL AWARD WINNER

Down in the forest there's something stirring

Allen Robertson visits The Grizedale Society's prize-winning open-air sculpture gallery, in the heart of a Cumbria forest

Bill Grant, director of The Grizedale Society and now, perhaps unexpectedly, winner of the £100,000 Prudential Award for the Arts, has a simple philosophy: "to spend the minimum on administration and the maximum on art". He means what he says; he is literally 50 per cent of the staff in charge of Britain's largest art gallery.

Grizedale is a 9,000-acre practical working forest run by the Forestry Commission. But it is also one of the most ambitious environmental projects in the country. A trip round the northern tip of Lake Windermere into Grant's spacious domain reveals a world where art and nature cohabit in glorious harmony.

Grant, a small, rosy-cheeked man with a ruff of white hair, appears a combination of devilish leprechaun and Father Christmas. Now "be-

yond the age of retirement" he has, by default, become the curator of some of the most exciting affresco art produced in the past decade. "Grizedale is a special kind of animal that doesn't slot easily into the establishment arts scene," he says. "It has a particular image and is not the slick, arts centre sort of place."

That is an understatement. The sculptures are spread out along a 12-mile trail. They are marked on a map which visitors receive when they arrive. From there on, it is up to them to search for the sculptures themselves.

"It's not all laid out on a plate. You have to get out on your pins and look for it. It's like an

adventure," Grant maintains. No two sculptures can be seen in any one spot. That is one of the most important aspects. Each artist who works in Grizedale begins by trekking round in search of the ideal location for his or her work. One artist chose the centre of a pond, another a cliff. Up hill and down dale the artists create with the natural materials of the forest: wood, rocks, twigs.

"The possibilities are absolutely enormous," says Grant. "And it's constantly evolving. Because of the natural materials there's a built-in obsolescence. It's an organic thing, growing and decaying just like the forest itself."

The idea for Grizedale goes back

to 1968 when Grant, then Grizedale's chief forester, received a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship which took him to the United States. He returned filled with ideas and Grizedale's Theatre in the Forest was born out of a converted hayloft. It is still flourishing and offers everything from chamber music and jazz to Shakespeare and wine tastings.

"Grizedale is not Glyndebourne. We get people coming to listen to chamber music in their shirtsleeves. To my way of thinking, that's the way it should be."

The sculpture project came into being in 1977. The intent is not so much outdoor museum as one of enhancing the environment to the

most creative of ways. Last year almost 200,000 people visited and, as Grant notes with obvious pride, Grizedale has become something of an international role model. One of his next projects is a special trail to allow the elderly and the physically disabled to experience something of the Grizedale ethos.

Winning the 1990 Prudential Award will enable Grant to erect one of Grizedale's most impressive sculptures. It is being created by Colin Rose and is called "Aerial Walkway". It is exactly what its title implies: a catwalk through the treetops linking two sides of a ravine some 30 feet above the ground. The result, as with so many other of the Grizedale sculptures, should be sheer magic.

● Grizedale Forest Sculpture can be seen at Grizedale, Hawkshead, Ambleside, Cumbria. Further information from 0229 860291.



Wood surprise: "The Ancient Forester" by David Kemp

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Authentic sound of disaster

Stephen Pettitt reviews this week's concerts featuring period instruments

In the early days of the period-instrument revival, there was frequently a marked disparity between the quality of performance heard on record and in live concerts. That was to be expected: many musicians involved in the momentous experiment were more or less learning how to play the older versions of their instruments in public.

Those days are over, or at least that is what I thought until last week. My record review on these pages (November 13) praised the neatness of playing in the first instalment of Christopher Hogwood's Haydn symphonies recording project with the Academy of Ancient Music. But hearing him conduct the same orchestra in Haydn at the Wigmore Hall last Saturday was a severe shock.

Haydn's Symphonies Nos 6, 7 and 8 ("Le Matin", "Le Midi" and "Le Soir") are, admittedly not easy. But here, they were shoddily played. Hogwood seemed as fired up for his task as a bored art gallery attendant; his beat was stodgy, especially in the minuets. His players sometimes

sounded as if they were sight-reading, and with just two desks of first violins there was nowhere to hide.

Admittedly the leader, Christopher Hiron, was the victim of bad luck when his E-string broke during the tuning-up for "Le Midi", but even that was hardly excuse for the waywardness of his subsequent solos. Such uncertainty was bound to infect his colleagues. The gorgeous slow movement of this work suffered from those old, familiar problems of oboe intonation, while the scraping and approximate double bass solos in the Minuetto of "Le Soir" set the teeth on edge. Even the usually reliable Anthony Haldstead and Christian Rutherford had a hard time with their high horn solos.

With playing such as this, arguments about whether or not a harpsichord continuo is appropriate — Hogwood opted to exclude it — become irrelevant. Bafflingly, the audience, which also heard Emma Kirkby sing two rare Mozart numbers (the aria "Voi avete un cor fidele" and the Lied "Nehmt meinen Dank, ihr customary piercing with her customary piercing purity, seemed to adore it. Rightly, Decca would never allow their recordings of these works to be anything other

than highly polished. Thus, unless the AAM experiences a miraculous transformation (or releases more thoroughly), the product in the shops will be a denial of reality. Tom Koopman and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra may not make the world's most perfect recordings, but they are identifiable equally easily in concert hall or on compact disc, thanks to their brittle sound, unrelenting vigour in faster music, and often impetuous mannerisms in slower movement. In short, they always perform.

Their mistake at the Queen Elizabeth Hall was to play, end to end, four of Mozart's earliest symphonies (Nos 5 and 7 were, indeed, the very first). I would have happily traded brevity and charm for a touch of drama; and, taking into account Koopman's tendency towards flamboyant invention at the harpsichord, there was cause for regret that he adopted the same solution to the continuo problem as Hogwood.

Reassuringly, concerts given by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment sometimes seem to fizz with an inspiration that is almost impossible to capture on record. That happened last

month, when the orchestra played under Frans Brüggen's direction. The OAE could not reach such heights when Sir Charles Mackerras conducted a subsequent London concert, but it made an honest, investigating job of Mendelssohn's overture *Finale* and of Brian Newbould's completion of Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony.

Newbould's orchestration of the scherzo (which survives, incomplete, in the form of a piano score) here seemed a touch clumsy, perhaps because Mackerras treated this movement with a particularly heavy hand. But the translation of the first entrance of *Rosamunde* to this symphony's finale, a solution whose plausibility was argued strongly by the late Gerald Abraham, worked perfectly.

Though the playing was far from impeccably co-ordinated, it was much more so than in Crucell's virtuosic Third Clarinet Concerto. Antony Pay, who gave an appropriately fine account of the solo part, should really have allowed someone other than himself to direct.

Finally, let me commend a new, young group of three singers and a lutenist calling itself La Brigata. Its Early Music Centre Network tour reached the Wigmore Hall last week. The programme of early 15th-century Venetian music was mellifluously delivered but the slightly twee introductions need some work.

RECORDS: OPERA

Fresh confusion

Schubert: *Fierrabras* Solists, Schoenberg Choir, Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Abbado. DG 427 341 2 (two CDs). Janáček: *Oedipus* Welsh National Opera/Mackerras. EMI CDC 7 49593 2.

AS RUTH Berghaus remarks in the booklet accompanying this recording of the *Fierrabras* she produced in Vienna, Schubert's opera is about young people whose emotional confusions are expressed in the plot's thickety character. One may easily lose track of what is happening, but the music is always immediate, present and sure. There is a confident green freshness to the work, in a performance for which Claudio Abbado aptly chose the young Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

The sense of a boisterous, burgeoning immaturity is perhaps the book's stronger because *Fierrabras* failed to lead anywhere: this is a great but never burst open. Not only did it have no successor in Schubert's own output, but remained unperformed until nearly 70 years after the composer's death. Lacking progeny, it also, in a sense, lacks antecedents, for though it owes clear debts to Weber and to *Fidelio*, the main business of the music is elsewhere: in the intensely Schubertian song style of so many of the numbers, and in the blithe sweep that interlocks passages of recitative, melo-drama and chorus.

The cast is well chosen to enact adolescent emotional crises, the occasional breaking tone of the two leading tenors — Robert Gambill as Egihard and Josef Protschka as *Fierrabras* — seeming quite appropriate (the recording is wisely taken from stage performances). Karita Mattila as Emma and Cheryl Studer as Florida are both beautifully

contrasted, the one warm and mellifluous, the other breath-takingly urgent. Thomas Hampson is a noble Roland and Robert Holl a sound Charlemagne, except for some strain in the very lowest register: the work profits, of course, from these intelligent *lieder* voices. It is a pleasure to hear Peter Hofmann in the tiny part of Ogier.

Fierrabras may not be a great work, but it is certainly a great curiosity, and this recording does it proud. Janáček's *Oedipus* is also a great curiosity which was neglected during its composer's lifetime. Written straight after *Jenifa*, it was not staged until 1958, and reached this country only in 1984.

Oedipus is the story of a composer whose wife dies in an accident, and who writes an opera apparently very like the one in which he is a character. Perhaps partly because the libretto was significantly altered during the course of composition, the piece has as many loose ends and sudden eruptions as *Fierrabras*, but it is again kept on the road by the exaltation of the music, and by the drive and colour brought to it by the Welsh National Opera ensemble under Charles Mackerras.

There is also, again, an exceptional cast. Philip Langridge's intensity and angst fit the central role to perfection, and Helen Field is in full, fine radiant flow as the wife. Smaller parts are stamped with character and musicality by Kathryn Harries, Peter Bronder and a boy treble, Samuel Linay. Indeed, the only questionable feature of the recording is the fact that it is sung in English when Janáček's music demands the initial-accent rhythms and the chewiness of Czech.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

TimeOut

LONDON'S WEEKLY GUIDE NOVEMBER 21-28 1990 No.1057 £1.20

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BOX OFFICE
FIRST CALL



When they were young: Norman Tebbit on a yacht (left), a young Edward Heath, Geoffrey Howe on a pony (top) and the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on horseback



London in aid of leukaemia. They are some of the 150 famous people who have donated signed photographs of themselves, many taken when they were children. A book with 87 of the photographs has been published in aid



of the Sharon Allen Leukaemia Trust. Margaret Thatcher gave a family portrait with her standing proudly in a group, while Michael Heseltine could not find a childhood snapshot and donated one as an adult instead. Lord

Widdowson of Eversley, the former Labour prime minister, had his sights on Downing Street at an early age as his photograph shows him on the steps of Number 10 as a boy wearing short trousers and a cloth cap.

Yeltsin attacks Gorbachev plan

FROM MARY DEWEY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev's plan to reorganise the Soviet Union's central administrative structure will only make the country's situation worse, Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, said yesterday. Mr Yeltsin, who is visiting the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, was giving his first response to Mr Gorbachev's proposals to institute new executive bodies and subordinate them directly to the president.

He told the semi-official news agency, Interfax, yesterday of his disappointment that comments from leaders of the Soviet Union's

other republics, including the Russian Federation, had apparently been rejected by the president. He said the proposals were all directed towards strengthening the centre, something he predicted that Russia would not accept.

"It turns out that you can do without both the consent and the advice of the sovereign republics," he said. "But you can't do that any more. Russia, at least, will not accept it."

The Russian and Soviet parliaments have been at loggerheads for two months, passing conflicting laws and insisting on the

primacy of their own resolutions. A truce sealed by President Gorbachev and Mr Yeltsin over the summer was broken last month when the Soviet government and the Russian Federation parliament went separate ways on economic reform.

Yesterday, Mr Yeltsin argued that the republics would have been happier if their declarations of sovereignty had been endorsed by the central parliament, the Supreme Soviet, before the question of signing a new union treaty was broached. He objected that Mr Gorbachev should also have con-

sulted the republics before launching his latest initiative.

"But this was not done... the reaction will be the opposite to what was wanted. I am convinced that this will hinder rather than help the situation in the country."

Not all Mr Yeltsin's comments were negative, however. He admitted that he had mixed feelings about the president's proposals and needed to study them further. If, as appears, plans for a new union treaty to bind the Soviet republics more loosely have been delayed or, as some believe, the idea of a political, rather than economic, treaty has been shelved for the time being, Mr Yeltsin may look on the Gorbachev proposals more favourably.

A fitting funeral for cold war

Continued from page 1

Thatcher still be there on Wednesday? Would President Gorbachev survive another month? Would President Bush's popularity go on falling until the war starts? Even the French, taking pride in the greatest gathering of world leaders since the conference of Versailles, were talking of the lame duck summit. Would even their own prime minister last until tonight?

The lessons of history were not encouraging. Of the 35 leaders who signed the original Helsinki accords, only Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican's representative, had the spiritual stamina and safe political base to survive the intervening 15 years.

Of the others, two have been assassinated - Aldo Moro of Italy and Olof Palme of Sweden - one, Nicolas Ceausescu, has been executed, and one, Erich Honecker, is under virtual house arrest.

President Bush was asked, after breakfast with Mrs Thatcher, whether he wished her luck. "Did I what?" he said, puzzled. "No a question even asked of his staunchest ally before. He quickly recovered enough to insist that 'far be it from me to figure out the internal political of a party in the United Kingdom'."

Ukraine pact, page 10

Political sketch

The hurricane's eye - Arcola St, E8

"QUESTIONS to the Right Honourable Member for Selby," (the Official Record styles the session) "as representing the Church Commissioners," yesterday...

Mr Frank Field (Lab, Birkenhead): Isn't there a serious point here?

Mr Nicholas Soames (C, Crawley) (from a sedentary position): No!

A light moment in an uneasy day, for strange quiet gripped the Chamber: the eye of the hurricane.

All around - in Henley, Belgrave, Paris and the BBC - objects were colliding and trees snapping in the political gale. Reports reached us from as far as Scotland of brother taking arms against brother, while regiments of parliamentary candidates writing to the Times, and Young Conservatives crying at breakfast, Edwina Currie had deserted the PM, and wolves were seen walking in the streets of South Derbyshire. Even the dawn was late.

But in the Chamber they were discussing social services. Ms Diane Abbot (Lab, Hackney N & Stoke Newington) wanted to know when Mr Newton, the secretary of state "next plans to visit Arcola Street Social Security Office."

The secretary of state had no immediate plans.

Concerned, perhaps, lest by embracing the whole of Arcola Street in her question she had broadened the ambit of discussion too wide, Ms Abbot brought the debate sharply into focus. It was "my constituent, Mrs Moore, of 156 Evelyn Court, E8" who had been wronged in Arcola Street. Mrs Moore had been refused a grant for a new pair of shoes.

As ministers struggled with the issues raised, Mr Michael Jack (C, Epsom) sought to intervene.

"I hope," said the Speaker gravely to Mr Jack, "that there is an Arcola Street connection?"

There was, but only just. Mr Jack invited us to consider "Arcola Street and other centres"; and the House turned its attention to a few of the many issues which might affect Arcola

Street as much as, if not more than, anywhere else.

Far away in Paris, occupying Britain's seat at the conference on security and cooperation in Europe, the prime minister too may have had Arcola Street as much in mind as anywhere, and as little, poor soul.

Outside it was raining as the most junior minister of all, at social security, Mrs Gillian Shephard, rose on a question about pensions, standing charges, "and other matters." Mrs Shephard fizzes with competence. Every club bore has his story about how, rather ahead of the pack (at a cheese and wine party in Finchley in 1958 perhaps) he first spotted Margaret Thatcher as a world leader. Well it was yesterday that you sketchwriter sensed in this junior minister the potential to reach the top.

Mr Soames recommended the German approach to pensions. Mrs Shephard came back at him with a whole barrage of facts about Germany; and not just facts, but philosophy too. Yet without scolding, with calm good nature. A sort of "open-mindedly" Thatcher.

After social services came Michael Alison, the backbencher who moonlights as "representing the Church Commissioners," whoever they are. An ex-aside to Mrs Thatcher, Mr Alison is not (in fact) a crawler, but a pearly fellow. Yesterday was his moment to fly to the aid of his old boss. It turned into a nightmare.

He decided to commend her for her religious zeal. "Not since Gladstone," he said, had such piety been found at No 10. Then Mr Alison started to say that she would make a good priest, realised - too late - that people might think he was joking - and lurched into a painstaking disquisition on how people could take up the ministry very late in life - and 70 would not be too late - after she had finished being PM...

Mr Alison meant it. At Westminster, that makes a pitiful sight.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Reformer leads the Bar

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ANTHONY Scriven QC, from the reformist wing of the Bar Council, swept to victory last night in the first contested election for the post of chairman of the Bar in its history.

Mr Scriven, aged 55, the Bar's deputy chairman, fought off his challenger, Richard Southwell QC, in an election which also included the Bar's first postal ballot on the chairmanship.

The chairman-elect comes from a reformist group known as Campaign for the Bar which took the Bar Council by storm four years ago, on the strength of a manifesto for greater democracy in the

profession's governing body. The group won a double victory yesterday; the deputy chairmanship went to another member, Gareth Williams QC, who defeated Roger Henderson QC, chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee.

Most of the policies of Campaign for the Bar, which included a greater say for the young, and those in the regions, have been implemented. But the election victory yesterday is a clear signal that barristers want the profession to shake off its traditional, somewhat aloof, Oxbridge image.

Legal, pages 28, 29

Leadership race 'too close to call'

Continued from page 1. Mr Heseltine said he had been put up to spearhead his party's attack on Labour at the 1979 and 1983 elections and claimed that only he could preserve the achievements of the recent Tory governments through the 1990s.

As Tory MPs pondered the prospect of a second ballot after the declaration at 6.30pm today, their calculations were having to be revised in the light of growing pressure for John Major, the chancellor, to make a bid for the leadership.

Arrangements have been made for the result to be flashed to Mrs Thatcher in Paris. Her cabinet colleagues are hoping that if she has not won outright she will take no action until she has discussed the implications of the first round figures with them.

Senior members of the 1922 committee were saying that if Mrs Thatcher were to be denied the support of more than a third of Tory MPs she would have to consider whether to step down.

In today's ballot she needs a minimum of 187 votes with a margin of at least 56 over Mr

Heseltine to be sure of victory. Some close to the Heseltine camp suggested that he had 130 votes assured. There are predictions of as many as 30 abstentions. In truth, however, no one knew. In the most dishonest election in the world, black propaganda was the order of the day.

There was some dismay among Mrs Thatcher's supporters at her attack on Mr Heseltine, which some felt would prove counterproductive, and the raw nerves showed at the end of the campaign with Mr Tebbit declaring "the gloves are off".

WEATHER

England and Wales will start bright, but the South-east will be cloudy with some rain at first. Sunny spells and scattered showers will spread across the country with sleet or snow over northern hills. Many central and southern inland parts will stay mainly dry. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers, falling as sleet or snow, especially on high ground. Outlook: cold, but bright; sunny spells and showers.

ABROAD

MEDIAN: 10-15; 16-20; 21-25; 26-30; 31-35; 36-40; 41-45; 46-50; 51-55; 56-60; 61-65; 66-70; 71-75; 76-80; 81-85; 86-90; 91-95; 96-100; 101-105; 106-110; 111-115; 116-120; 121-125; 126-130; 131-135; 136-140; 141-145; 146-150; 151-155; 156-160; 161-165; 166-170; 171-175; 176-180; 181-185; 186-190; 191-195; 196-200; 201-205; 206-210; 211-215; 216-220; 221-225; 226-230; 231-235; 236-240; 241-245; 246-250; 251-255; 256-260; 261-265; 266-270; 271-275; 276-280; 281-285; 286-290; 291-295; 296-300; 301-305; 306-310; 311-315; 316-320; 321-325; 326-330; 331-335; 336-340; 341-345; 346-350; 351-355; 356-360; 361-365; 366-370; 371-375; 376-380; 381-385; 386-390; 391-395; 396-400; 401-405; 406-410; 411-415; 416-420; 421-425; 426-430; 431-435; 436-440; 441-445; 446-450; 451-455; 456-460; 461-465; 466-470; 471-475; 476-480; 481-485; 486-490; 491-495; 496-500; 501-505; 506-510; 511-515; 516-520; 521-525; 526-530; 531-535; 536-540; 541-545; 546-550; 551-555; 556-560; 561-565; 566-570; 571-575; 576-580; 581-585; 586-590; 591-595; 596-600; 601-605; 606-610; 611-615; 616-620; 621-625; 626-630; 631-635; 636-640; 641-645; 646-650; 651-655; 656-660; 661-665; 666-670; 671-675; 676-680; 681-685; 686-690; 691-695; 696-700; 701-705; 706-710; 711-715; 716-720; 721-725; 726-730; 731-735; 736-740; 741-745; 746-750; 751-755; 756-760; 761-765; 766-770; 771-775; 776-780; 781-785; 786-790; 791-795; 796-800; 801-805; 806-810; 811-815; 816-820; 821-825; 826-830; 831-835; 836-840; 841-845; 846-850; 851-855; 856-860; 861-865; 866-870; 871-875; 876-880; 881-885; 886-890; 891-895; 896-900; 901-905; 906-910; 911-915; 916-920; 921-925; 926-930; 931-935; 936-940; 941-945; 946-950; 951-955; 956-960; 961-965; 966-970; 971-975; 976-980; 981-985; 986-990; 991-995; 996-1000; 1001-1005; 1006-1010; 1011-1015; 1016-1020; 1021-1025; 1026-1030; 1031-1035; 1036-1040; 1041-1045; 1046-1050; 1051-1055; 1056-1060; 1061-1065; 1066-1070; 1071-1075; 1076-1080; 1081-1085; 1086-1090; 1091-1095; 1096-1100; 1101-1105; 1106-1110; 1111-1115; 1116-1120; 1121-1125; 1126-1130; 1131-1135; 1136-1140; 1141-1145; 1146-1150; 1151-1155; 1156-1160; 1161-1165; 1166-1170; 1171-1175; 1176-1180; 1181-1185; 1186-1190; 1191-1195; 1196-1200; 1201-1205; 1206-1210; 1211-1215; 1216-1220; 1221-1225; 1226-1230; 1231-1235; 1236-1240; 1241-1245; 1246-1250; 1251-1255; 1256-1260; 1261-1265; 1266-1270; 1271-1275; 1276-1280; 1281-1285; 1286-1290; 1291-1295; 1296-1300; 1301-1305; 1306-1310; 1311-1315; 1316-1320; 1321-1325; 1326-1330; 1331-1335; 1336-1340; 1341-1345; 1346-1350; 1351-1355; 1356-1360; 1361-1365; 1366-1370; 1371-1375; 1376-1380; 1381-1385; 1386-1390; 1391-1395; 1396-1400; 1401-1405; 1406-1410; 1411-1415; 1416-1420; 1421-1425; 1426-1430; 1431-1435; 1436-1440; 1441-1445; 1446-1450; 1451-1455; 1456-1460; 1461-1465; 1466-1470; 1471-1475; 1476-1480; 1481-1485; 1486-1490; 1491-1495; 1496-1500; 1501-1505; 1506-1510; 1511-1515; 1516-1520; 1521-1525; 1526-1530; 1531-1535; 1536-1540; 1541-1545; 1546-1550; 1551-1555; 1556-1560; 1561-1565; 1566-1570; 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3391-3395; 3396-3400; 3401-3405; 3406-3410; 3411-3415; 3416-3420; 3421-3425; 3426-3430; 3431-3435; 3436-3440; 3441-3445; 3446-3450; 3451-3455; 3456-3460; 3461-3465; 3466-3470; 3471-3475; 3476-3480; 3481-3485; 3486-3490; 3491-3495; 3496-3500; 3501-3505; 3506-3510; 3511-3515; 3516-3520; 3521-3525; 3526-3530; 3531-3535; 3536-3540; 3541-3545; 3546-3550; 3551-3555; 3556-3560; 3561-3565; 3566-3570; 3571-3575; 357

BBC 1

- 6.00 Cee-fax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando
8.50 Daytime UK. A look at the day ahead with Andrew Marr in Manchester and Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spleen in Birmingham
9.00 News, regional news and weather
9.05 Brainwave. Andy Craig invites contestants to tackle questions on hobbies, lifestyle and leisure
9.25 Dish People Today. Adrian Mills and Debi Jones offer advice on money matters
10.00 News, regional news and weather
10.05 Children's BBC introduced by Simon Pegg begins with Playdays (10.25 Pingu, cartoon series)
10.35 People Today. Includes, at 10.45 Health UK in which Martin Lewis asks why anti-smoking campaigns aimed at teenagers seem to be unsuccessful
11.00 News, regional news and weather
11.05 Killy. Robert Killy chairs a discussion on what women think of men who let themselves go after marriage
11.45 Before Noon. Adrian Mills and Ronke Phillips are in Manchester to take viewers' calls
12.00 News, regional news and weather
12.05 Afternoon Secondary. Conley hosts another 15 minutes of fitness training
12.20 Scene Today. Live entertainment from Pabla Mill including Tim Grundy's Video Film 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Heyton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. Australian soap. (Cee-fax) 1.50 Going for Gold. European quiz hosted by Henry Kelly
2.15 Film: No Highway in the Sky (1951, b/w) starring James Stewart and Marlene Dietrich. A comedy about a Navy pilot's novel about an eccentric scientist researching the possible defects of a commercial plane. He is convinced the plane is unsafe but finds himself in danger trying to prove it. Suspense is kept by the fact that the stars are in reliable form. Directed by Henry Kostor.
3.50 Forget-Me-Not Farm 4.05 The Chimpunks. A cartoon

BBC 2

- 8.00 News
8.15 Westminster. News of proceedings in both Houses
9.00 Daytime on Two: a visit to medieval Longhorne Tower 9.05 Roly Castle and the castle of the 13th century
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3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live. Prime minister's questions plus the day's other business from the Commons and Lords
3.50 News, regional news and weather

BBC 2

- 4.00 Catchword. Word quiz hosted by Paul O'Connell
4.30 Behind the Headlines. Robert Robinson and Lloyd Grossman are joined by businesswoman Joan Danton and pop journalist Cynthia Rose
5.00 Advice Shop. Bosses in industry are delighted as the trade barriers lower all over Europe with the approach of 1992. But what about the workers? Advice Shop reports from France, Brussels and the UK
5.30 The Travel Show. Guides. Travel magazine introduced by Penny Junor, with Matthew Collins and Dr John Thomas. A look at the northern coast of Spain (1). (Cee-fax)
6.00 Film: The Last Command (1955). In 1930s Texas the white settlers are planning to rebel against the local tyrant, General Santa Anna. Elaborate and complicated western depicting the battle of the Alamo, with enjoyable action but a poor script. Starring Sterling Hayden and Anne Marie Aldrich. Directed by Frank Lloyd
7.45 Assignment: The Secret World of the Khmer Rouge. A rare insight into the operations of ruthless warriors, the Khmer Rouge. About a million Cambodians people were murdered by the Khmer under Pol Pot's regime. Although the murders were finally driven out by the Vietnamese, their return is imminent.
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BBC 2

BBC 2



The Maze: Republican prisoners (10.20pm)

republican terrorists, most of them serving life sentences for murder. The film is a mixture of observation of the men's daily routine and interviews in the cells. Peter Taylor's sharp questioning should head off criticism that this is a public relations job for the paramilitary, who to meet the government reporting restrictions, are their official channels to the outside world. The film is a mixture of observation of the men's daily routine and interviews in the cells. Peter Taylor's sharp questioning should head off criticism that this is a public relations job for the paramilitary, who to meet the government reporting restrictions, are their official channels to the outside world. The film is a mixture of observation of the men's daily routine and interviews in the cells. Peter Taylor's sharp questioning should head off criticism that this is a public relations job for the paramilitary, who to meet the government reporting restrictions, are their official channels to the outside world.

BBC 2

11.50 Working Titles. Last in the series looking at the sort of jobs which keep the aristocracy busy. With Lady Victoria Lasnam and the Countess of Mountbatten.
12.00 News and weather

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BBC 2

ITV LONDON

- 8.00 TV-am
9.25 Keynotes. Alastair Divil has the music and his contestants must provide the lyrics 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time... The Place... John Stapleton chairs a discussion on whether or not the working class still exists
10.40 This Morning. Magazine show presented by Judy Farnigan and Richard Maclean
12.05 Rod, Jane & Freddy. Children's entertainment 12.25 Home and Away 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News at One with Nicholas Owen. Weather
1.20 Hairloom. Antiques expert John Bly examines, values and identifies cloaks and watches brought in by the studio audience 1.30 Country Practice. Australian drama set in a rural community health clinic
2.20 Take The High Road. Sample the ups and downs of life with the residents of Glenloch, a small Highland village 2.50 Talkabout. Andrew O'Connor hosts the game for couples with the gift of the gab
3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 Financial. 50-centennial soap that links Australia with the north of England
3.55 Huxley Pig. More adventures with the daydreaming porker 4.10 The Dreamstone. Fantasy cartoon series 4.35 Sweeney (1)
4.40 Children's Ward. Drama serial about a large hospital children's ward. (Cee-fax)
5.10 Home and Away (1)
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather

CHANNEL 4

- 8.00 The Art of Landscape. Stunning scenery set to a soothing soundtrack
8.20 Business Daily
8.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 School Report. Pre-school educational fun with special guest actress Susan Sarandon
9.40 Third Wave. Series of features for the over-55s. Today, a look at the joys and heartaches of sexuality and relationships for the over-55s. (Teletext)
9.55 Film: Thin Ice (1987, b/w). Continuing a season of films starring former Olympic skater Sonja Henie, this lively romantic comedy-musical stars her as a Swiss skating instructor who meets an incorporeal Australian prior to meeting a reporter (Tyronne Power). The film capitalises on the then much-publicised affair between the two stars. With Arthur Treacher, Raymond Walburn and Joan Davis. Directed by Sidney Lanfield
10.10 At Last Look at Churches. John Piper selects an English church from each century in this 1969 British film documentary (1)
10.40 Fifteen-to-One. Fast-moving quiz by Michaela Strachan. Includes a visit to 10.50 Zoo where John Aspinall joins his gorilla for a rough and tumble. (Teletext)
5.30 Same Difference. Magazine series on disabled matters. There is a look at how the judicial system copes with

CHANNEL 4

disability and what sort of provision is made for the deaf and blind in prison. Mark Todd talks to the new president of Nicaragua, Violeta Chamorro, who is disabled
6.00 A Different World. Award-winning comedy chronicling the adventures of students at an inner-city college
6.30 Vic Reeves Big Night Out. Britain's self-appointed top light entertainer returns for a repeat series. Bob Mortimer joins in the madness as Vic meets a man who burns important documents and shows how to make a ray-gun out of denim (1)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zainab Baidoo includes analysis of the Tory leadership contest result
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Down to Earth. Cambridge academic Dr Catherine Hall meets the two joint winners of this year's Silver Trowel award (the British Archaeological awards) - John Hurst and Dr Don Spratt
8.30 Check Out. Consumer magazine. A 20p guide to the best value of the mysteries surrounding a creditors meeting
8.40 Aids Now: More Questions Than Answers - The Case of the Promiscuous Parasites. First of four revised films to coincide with World Aids day on December 1. A look at what the statistics mean and why they change so rapidly. (Teletext)
10.00 Film: The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (1974). CHOICE: Although British audiences first saw it in the cinema, John Huston's film was made for American television and did much to raise the status of that often-despised form, the television movie. Emmys, the small screen equivalent of the Oscars, went to Kory, the writer

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- 8.00 TV-am
9.25 Keynotes. Alastair Divil has the music and his contestants must provide the lyrics 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time... The Place... John Stapleton chairs a discussion on whether or not the working class still exists
10.40 This Morning. Magazine show presented by Judy Farnigan and Richard Maclean
12.05 Rod, Jane & Freddy. Children's entertainment 12.25 Home and Away 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News at One with Nicholas Owen. Weather
1.20 Hairloom. Antiques expert John Bly examines, values and identifies cloaks and watches brought in by the studio audience 1.30 Country Practice. Australian drama set in a rural community health clinic
2.20 Take The High Road. Sample the ups and downs of life with the residents of Glenloch, a small Highland village 2.50 Talkabout. Andrew O'Connor hosts the game for couples with the gift of the gab
3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 Financial. 50-centennial soap that links Australia with the north of England
3.55 Huxley Pig. More adventures with the daydreaming porker 4.10 The Dreamstone. Fantasy cartoon series 4.35 Sweeney (1)
4.40 Children's Ward. Drama serial about a large hospital children's ward. (Cee-fax)
5.10 Home and Away (1)
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather

CHANNEL 4

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Nicola and Andrew Thompson (10.40pm)

out of love and respect. The film went on the discussion by looking at the experience of The Netherlands, where euthanasia is widely practiced, and also gives the floor to those who argue against it. The credits point out that the Thompsons did not receive a script



Visual transitions: Cissy Tyson (10.00pm)

Tracy Keenan Wynn and the leading actress, Cissy Tyson, it is very much Tyson's show. With help from the make-up department, she goes from a young black slave at the time of the civil war to the wrinkled woman of 110 who tells the story. The visual transition is more than matched by subtle and sensitive acting. The film invites comparison with Arthur Penn's Little Big Man, where Dustin Hoffman underwent similar ageing as a device for giving one person's interpretation of a broad sweep of history. If Kory does not attempt Penn's stylistic flourish, the film offers many insights into the black American's struggle for rights and dignity
12.00 It's Showtime at the Apollo. The host is recording artist Pat Force, with special guests Taylor Dayne and actor/comedian Charles Cozart.
1.00am The Lonesome Pine Special. Series featuring the steady sounds of Kentucky, including blues, jazz, calypso, gospel and country. From jazz standards to punk funk, Chameleone Neville waves the crowds in the Barnyard Theatre. Ends at 2.25

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Mercury wins more customers from BT

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of domestic customers making calls on Mercury Communications' lines is rising sharply as the company broadens its assault on the British telecommunications market.

Mercury secured 7,000 new domestic customers in October, a jump of 75 per cent over the previous month's growth rate. The company launched its first advertising campaign aimed at domestic customers on July 1. Since it began operations five years ago, Mercury has concentrated on the business market.

Although British Telecom connected 414,000 new customers in the year to end-September, an average of 34,500 a month, it has noted a sharp downturn in the rate of growth. A BT spokeswoman

blamed the nationwide economic slowdown.

Mercury has also had success in gaining some of BT's most valued business customers. The number of business customers using Mercury has doubled, to about 30,000, in the past year.

Mercury claims to carry 13 per cent of international calls from Britain and to command 4 per cent of the British telecom market, measured by revenue. The company says call growth is rising 8 per cent a month.

With 85 British towns and cities linked by its trunk network, Mercury says it can serve 70 per cent of Britain, offering significant cost savings on off-peak calls over 35p. Calls are routed over BT exchange lines between the home and local exchanges at either end, but travel on Mercury wires for the long-distance element of the connection.

To use Mercury services, domestic customers pay an annual fee of £8.63 and must have a telephone that can be programmed to dial two extra digits in front of the number called. That ensures it is routed over the Mercury network.

A Mercury spokesman claimed typical cost savings of 25 per cent on an off-peak call routed via Mercury.

Mercury believes many households with a quarterly bill of more than £75 could save money by switching from BT to Mercury.

The most convincing evidence of Mercury's ability to capture customers from BT comes from Hull. The town's telephone system is run by the local authority and Mercury claims 55 per cent of all calls made beyond the town now travel on its wires.

Mercury now has 65,000 domestic customers, up 25,000 in the past four months. BT has 18 million, but claims about three-quarters make too few calls to be profitable.

Turnover advanced from £2.73 million to £4 million, boosted by Taverna Leisure, acquired for £10 million in March. Taverna, the public house chain, made post-acquisition losses of £101,000, from "a very limited number of units in operation".

Group operating losses stood at £333,000, compared with a profit of £364,000 last year. There were transfer fees of £461,000 after the club bought Paul Goddard and Malcolm Allen, against previous losses of £292,000.

The company said that it was determined to balance transfer dealings in the trading period and if there was any significant signing, players of equal financial worth would have to be sold.

Lewisham council's planning committee will next month consider Millwall's proposal to relocate to a new purpose-built 25,000 all-seater stadium. The present stadium would be demolished to make way for a housing scheme.

The loss per share was trimmed from 1.87p to 1.27p. Assets per share stood at 6.2p, against liabilities of 2.5p last year.

Shares were unchanged at 5p, compared with a flotation price of 20p a year ago.

Alan Paul ahead to £1.5m



Confident Alan Paul, right, and Michael Rowland, the managing director

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ALAN Paul, the quoted hairdresser and beauty products retailer, has announced new tripled first half pre-tax profits of £1.5 million following the recent acquisition of Essanelle, the European hairdressing group.

A five month contribution from Essanelle, bought for £8.5 million in May, increased turnover for the six months to end-September to £21.8 million (£3.1 million). Earnings per share were up 24 per cent

to 5.6p. The 1p interim dividend is an 11 per cent improvement on last year.

A further 40 Alan Paul Hairdressing salons have been opened since the year end, taking the total to 136. Alan Paul, the chairman, reported strong demand for hairdressing franchises.

Essanelle, which operates 230 concessions in department stores in Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Britain, including House of Fraser and D H Evans, has

been integrated into the group. During the first half, Essanelle opened its first salon in East Germany.

The Body & Face Place, a chain of beauty product shops, opened eight shops in the first half, including its first in Germany, taking the total to 77.

Mr Paul said: "Throughout the group there has been a positive start to the second half year and I am confident that the group can achieve further profitable growth."

Logitek in 16p fall on return

By PHILIP PANGALOS

TRADING in Logitek, the computer services company, commenced with a 16p fall to 40p after it forecast a slide in interim profits to end-September. Shares were suspended ten days ago at 56p at the company's request after an analyst's profit downgrading prompted a sudden price fall.

Yesterday's closing price marks a sharp recovery from the 24.5p to which the shares fell immediately after the lifting of the suspension.

The company said that problems at two subsidiaries and higher interest charges meant that pre-tax profits for the first half would be about £500,000 (£1.3 million). The firm said that full year profits will fall short of the £3.8 million last year.

Handley-Walker in French buy

By PHILIP PANGALOS

HANDLEY-WALKER Group, the USM-quoted management consultancy, is strengthening its European presence with a French acquisition and extending its network into Holland in a bid to reduce the group's exposure to the UK market.

The group is forming Handley-Walker SA, a joint-venture company which will acquire BCD & Associates, a French consultancy. The new company will be 50 per cent owned by Handley-Walker and 50 per cent by Patrick Boeri and Jean Paul Deville, BCD's two principals, who will initially receive 5,000 Handley-Walker shares. The group has an option to acquire

the remaining 50 per cent of the French company for a maximum total of £76 million, depending on future profits.

Handley-Walker is also forming a joint-venture with Rijncoconsult, a Dutch consultancy experienced in public sector consulting, in the first phase in establishing an integrated network of specialised European consultancies.

Peter Smith, Handley-Walker's chairman, said: "The management consultancy market in continental Europe is growing steadily and we are delighted to extend our network into Holland and strengthen our presence in France."

Bank taps continental credit card market

By OUR CITY STAFF

BANK of Scotland is to invest £300,000 in a credit card processing joint venture with a German bank to tap into the under-developed but fast-growing credit card market on the Continent.

The partner is Quelle Bank, a subsidiary of Schickelbank, the privately owned German mail-order, financial services and industrial group, which is launching a visa credit card targeted at its 30 million existing customers.

Initially the relationship will involve Bank of Scotland and services centre at Dunfermline, Fifeshire, processing Quelle Bank-issued visa cards. Bank of Scotland already handles third party processing for credit cards issued by the Halifax and National & Provincial building societies, the AA and Chase Manhattan Bank.

Phase two will involve the formation of a jointly owned venture based in Nuremberg early next year offering credit card processing facilities to third parties, initially in Germany.

Chris Brobbel, assistant general manager of Bank of Scotland's card services, said: "Quelle had wanted its credit cards to be processed by a bank not directly involved in the German market. Bank of Scotland has a share in a small credit card processing joint venture in Milan."

"Quelle's existing customer base within Europe coupled with our extensive third party processing experience in Britain provides a solid foundation on which to build a share of the under-developed credit card market in Europe," Mr Brobbel said.

Lopex has to restate interim

By MARTIN WALLER

LOPEX, the advertising and marketing group, has restated its last set of interim profits after the discovery that about £600,000 in earnings were overstated by its most profitable operating subsidiary.

As a result pre-tax profits to end-June come out at £3.41 million, against £4.01 million announced in September. The overstatement was by RCF, the direct mail company bought in August 1988, which had contributed £3.02 million to the figures first reported.

Ray Fine, chairman and chief executive of RCF, has resigned from Lopex "to pursue personal interests" after the discovery of the overstatement. Lord March, the Lopex chairman, refused to say if Mr Fine had been dismissed or whether his contract of service, which entitles him to a salary in excess of £100,000 a year, would be honoured.

Lopex has been released from having to make any further cash-out payments to Mr Fine. RCF was initially bought for £4.5 million, but under the earn-out arrangement Mr Fine was to be paid another £4.3 million if certain profit targets were reached.

Lopex's shares have fallen from 205p a year ago to an unchanged 65p yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Birmingham Mint dividend attacked

IMI, the engineering company, has posted its offer document to shareholders of Birmingham Mint, the coin making company for which it has launched a £12.2 million hostile takeover bid. The firm claims that Birmingham Mint may have difficulty maintaining last year's 5.5p dividend on the consensus forecast earnings per share of 8p for the year to end March, as this would leave the payout covered only 1.5 times.

The document also said shareholders had suffered a £16 million erosion of value since December 1986 when Birmingham Mint's market capitalisation was £11 million and since when it has issued £13.6 million of new shares. Birmingham Mint said that its forthcoming defence document would "illustrate the group's strength in its specialist engineering operations and in its unique minting operations compared with the weakness of IMI's position in the minting market".

Emmet falls to Ir£85,000

RAJ EMMET, the USM manufacturer of cream liqueur and snack foods in the Irish Republic, suffered a fall in pre-tax interim profits to Ir£85,000 (Ir£184,000) to end-June. Turnover advanced to Ir£4.71 million (Ir£2.99 million) boosted by a full contribution from Irish Snack Foods. Earnings per share fell to 0.6p (1.17p), but the interim dividend is kept at 1.25p.

Harland rises to £2.51m

HARLAND Simon Group, the automation and drive controls systems maker, unveiled a 45.5 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £2.51 million in the six months to end-September, on turnover ahead by 31 per cent to £29.3 million. Harland said it has continued to experience "satisfactory order intake". The interim dividend is improved by 33 per cent to 2p.

Pelican at £263,000

PELICAN Group, the restaurants group which came to the USM in September, served up interim pre-tax profits of £263,000 (£30,000) to end-September. The company is run by Roger Myers, who brought Theme Holdings to the Third Market in 1987.

Pelican has nine restaurants using three themes. The group achieved a turnover of £2.63 million. Earnings per share jumped from 0.4p to 3.9p. There is no interim dividend, but one is planned in 1991 in respect of the year to end-March 1991. Shares were unchanged at 31p, after touching 35p.

Priest bidder posts terms

INTERNATIONAL Marine, the American group bidding £46.6 million for Benjamin Priest, the engineering firm, has posted its offer document to shareholders in the West Midlands company. The document points to a 58.1 per cent fall in Benjamin Priest's share price since its acquisition of Lewmar, the yachting equipment manufacturer, in 1987.

ShopElectric link for BT

BRITISH Telecom and the state-owned Northern Ireland Electricity signed a trading agreement under which BT products and services are to be offered at the 52 NIE ShopElectric showrooms, as one-stop outlets, around the province. The first such deal concluded between BT and any UK electricity company is expected to be followed by others in mainland Britain.

Merchant setback

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Merchant Retail Group, the supermarket and department store operator formerly Normans Group, fell to £1.37 million (£1.98 million) to September 29. Operating profits from Normans Superwarehouses advanced 34 per cent to £2.35 million. The Joplings division contribution to trading profits rose 16 per cent to £803,000. Bandaggs, the tea and coffee plantations division for sale, saw profits slump from £150,000 to £14,000. Group turnover slipped to £74.1 million (£76.6 million). Earnings per share fell to 1.2p (2.07p) but the interim dividend is kept at 1.1p.

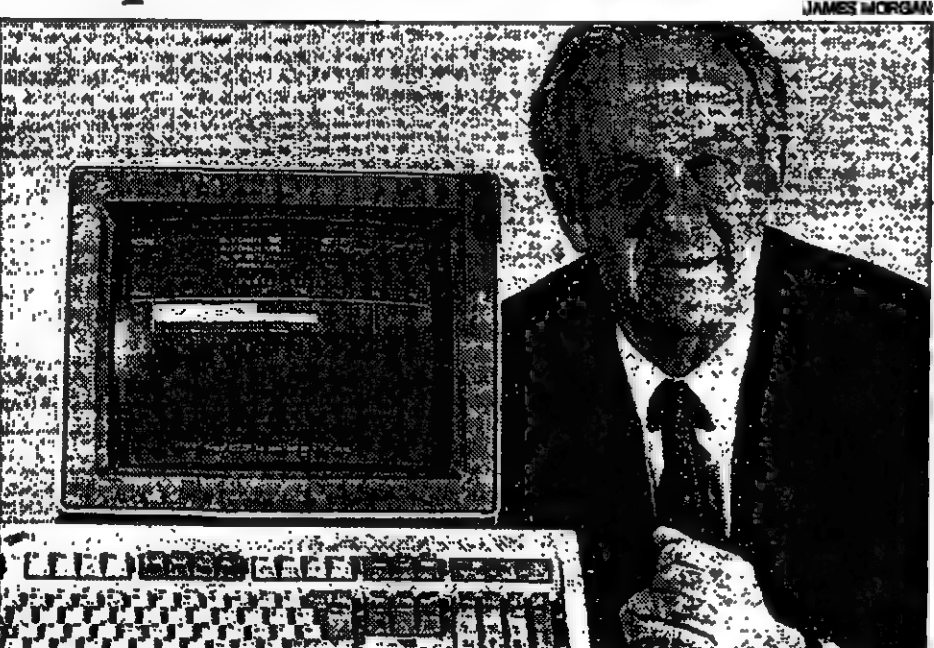
Kewill computes 34% interim rise

By OUR CITY STAFF

KEWILL Systems, the USM-quoted computer software group, lifted interim pre-tax profits 34 per cent to £1.51 million to end-September.

Kevin Overstall, Kewill's chairman, said that UK profits were down sharply, but £1.13 million to £693,000 at the trading level, but other European operations had helped to offset this.

Mr Overstall said the company benefited from a strong contribution from HAN Dataport, a Vienna developer of computer-aided design software mainly used in German-speaking countries. Group turnover surged to £15.9 million (£8.06 million), boosted by acquisitions. Earnings per share climb to 12.02p (11.03p) with diluted earnings up to 11.38p (10.12p). Again, there is no interim dividend. Shares rose 8p to 158p.



Euro aid: Kevin Overstall, chairman, praises the Austrian contribution to Kewill

Just Like a Ferrari!

It is said that every Ferrari engine has scratched on it, in some hidden corner, the initials of the man who built it. Morse also like to encourage pride of achievement. But to avoid scratching your new computer, we merely attach a tie-on inspection tag, on the back of which our conscientious engineer has signed his name.

MORSE 78 High Holborn, London WC1L 0HT. 071-831 0644
17 Sheen Lane, Mordlake SW14. 081-876 0404

DAKS Simpson

GROUP PLC

"... the underlying trends are encouraging"

Johnny Mengers, Chairman.

Principal Group Activities

- **Manufacturing** — DAKS menswear, womenswear, rainwear and leisurewear for UK and export
- **Licensing** — DAKS clothing and accessories produced locally in major world markets
- **Distribution** — The 'DAKS Components' range of accessories
- **Contract** — Suppliers of tailored clothing to Marks and Spencer
- **Retailing** — Simpson Piccadilly, London's leading speciality store

Results in brief

	1990	1989
Year ended 31st July		
Turnover	£69,618	£63,718
Profit before tax	4,163	5,298
Profit after tax	2,469	3,311
Earnings per share	41.4p	51.4p
Ordinary Dividends	11.75p	10.95p

Copies of the Report & Accounts can be obtained from The Secretary

34 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6HS

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change	Yearly change	Daily change	Yearly change
The World	564.8	0.9	-33.0	1.5	-24.1
Europe	108.0	0.9	-33.1	1.2	-24.1
Asia	998.7	1.3	-36.5	1.4	-31.4
Latin America	101.7	1.4	-36.5	1.3	-31.8
Europe (excl. UK)	603.6	1.2	-20.7	1.4	-18.0
Europe (incl. UK)	130.7	1.2	-20.0	1.2	-17.6
North America	387.9	0.1	-26.1	0.6	-9.4
Asia (excl. Japan)	1108.1	-0.4	-28.8	-0.1	-23.4
Asia (incl. Japan)	105.5	-0.7	-21.1	-0.5	-15.7
Latin America (excl. Brazil)	2167.4	1.4	-45.4	1.4	-36.8
Latin America (incl. Brazil)	3138.6	1.6	-45.4	1.4	-40.5
Australia	232.2	-1.0	-33.1	0.6	-15.2
Australia (excl. NZ)	1326.0	1.6	-10.8	1.5	-6.2
Canada	717.1	0.1	-27.2	0.4	-24.0
Denmark	395.4	-0.7	-34.1	-0.1	-19.0
Finland	1139.9	-0.5	-13.4	-0.2	0.0
France	64.6	0.3	-44.0	0.3	-31.3
Germany	67.8	0.6	-41.1	0.6	-37.0
Italy	611.8	1.2	-24.3	1.6	-20.5
Japan	724.4	1.9	-21.1	2.2	-16.1
Hong Kong	1911.6	0.8	-13.8	1.3	5.4
India	254.0	-0.3	-34.0	0.0	-29.5
Japan (excl. Nikkei)	3297.6	1.8	-46.5	1.4	-41.6
Netherlands	723.6	0.2	-23.8	0.5	-18.7
New Zealand	57.1	1.7	-44.6	2.3	-33.8
Norway	1112.5	-2.3	-17.1	-2.0	-11.5
Sweden	195.4	-2.5	-16.4	-2.3	-10.7
Singapore	1372.1	1.2	-31.2	1.5	-24.2
Spain	172.4	0.9	-27.2	0.8	-24.0
Switzerland	1148.0	0.2	-34.7	0.4	-28.7
UK	171.3	0.1	-29.3	0.1	-22.8
USA	723.2	1.2	-20.8	1.6	-21.9
USA (excl. Dow Jones)	110.4	1.3	-30.9	1.7	-21.9
UK (excl. FT-SE)	627.8	1.7	-12.9	1.7	-12.9
USA (excl. S&P 500)	360.5	0.1	-25.4	0.6	-8.8

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

RECENT ISSUES

Equities	Value	Daily change	Yearly change	Daily change	Yearly change
Adams Resources	37				
Adams Resources	158				
Adams Resources	38				
Adams Resources	38				
Adams Resources	38				
Adams Resources	38				
Adams Resources	38				
Adams Resources	38				
Adams Resources	38				
Adams Resources	38				

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol 100	Vol 100	Vol 100	Vol 100
ADT	277	ADT	277
ADT	277	ADT	277
ADT	277	ADT	277
ADT	277	ADT	277
ADT	277	ADT	277
ADT	277	ADT	277
ADT	277	ADT	277
ADT	277	ADT	277
ADT	277	ADT	277

MAJOR INDICES

New York	2558.58 (+6.43)
Dow Jones	2558.58 (+6.43)
S&P Composite	318.16 (+1.04)
Tokyo	22518.16 (+346.53)
Nikkei Average	22518.16 (+346.53)
Hong Kong	3042.58 (+33.92)
Hong Kong	3042.58 (+33.92)
FT-SE Eurotrack	972.87 (+14.66)

MAJOR CHANGES

Grand Mail	520p (+13p)
Guinness	747p (+17p)
RMC Group	624p (+12p)
Taylor Woodrow	222p (+11p)
Ward Group	130p (+10p)
Laporte	479p (+10p)
BICC	394p (+11p)
Thomson	688p (+18p)
Tate & Lyle	270p (+10p)
A. Kershaw	490p (+10p)
BCS	465p (+19p)
BTI	465p (+19p)
Bovril	405p (+12p)
Inchcape	240p (+12p)
Enterprise	623p (+13p)

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Index	Value	Daily change	Yearly change	Daily change	Yearly change
FT-SE 100	2558.58	+6.43			
FT-SE 100	2558.58	+6.43			
FT-SE 100	2558.58	+6.43			
FT-SE 100	2558.58	+6.43			
FT-SE 100	2558.58	+6.43			
FT-SE 100	2558.58	+6.43			
FT-SE 100	2558.58	+6.43			
FT-SE 100	2558.58	+6.43			
FT-SE 100	2558.58	+6.43			
FT-SE 100	2558.58	+6.43			

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

RECENT ISSUES

Equities

Value

Daily change

Yearly change

Daily change

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-26
● LAW 28-29
● SPORT 32-36

BUSINESS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20 1990

City Editor
John Bell

Jeweller fears late rush at Christmas

GOLDSMITHS Group, the retail jeweller that returned to the stock market in January after a three-year absence, is finding trading conditions tough. Jurek Piasecki, the group's chairman and chief executive, says Goldsmiths first felt the retail recession in June.

Mr Piasecki predicts the Christmas rush this year will come late for the company. "We have been targeting for sales growth of 10 per cent but budgeting for zero," he says. The items he expects will sell well are middle-range watches, such as Omega and Omega, and diamond jewellery. Goldsmiths also has the distribution agreement for Cartier.

The group made pre-tax profits of £44,000 in the six months to September 1, compared with £80,000 last year. Sales rose 13 per cent to £18.1 million. The interim dividend was 1.5p. Earnings per share were 0.13p.

Temper, page 23

Emap growth conquers trend

Emap, the magazine and newspaper publisher, managed an increase in pre-tax profits from £13.4 million to £13.6 million in the six months to September 29, despite the downturn in the publishing industry. As a sign of confidence in the business's underlying strength, the interim dividend is raised from 1.72p to 1.9p.

The group saw underlying profit growth of 8 per cent. The biggest contribution was from its consumer magazines division, which publishes *Smash Hits*, *Q* and a range of other leisure publications.

Temper, page 23

Diploma eases

Diploma, the electronics, building components and special steels group, is enjoying the challenge of recession and believes it performed well against a tough background in 1990. Pre-tax profits for the year to end-September eased from £19.5 million to £19 million, on a turnover of £149 million (£137.8 million). A maintained 6.25p final dividend makes an unchanged 8.5p for the year.

Temper, page 23

THE POUND

US dollar	1.9715 (+0.0050)
German mark	2.9066 (+0.0158)
Exchange index	94.0 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share	1648.0 (+33.2)
FT-SE 100	2095.9 (+27.9)
New York Dow Jones	2556.68 (+6.43)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	23518.16 (+345.53)

Closing Prices ... Page 25
Major indices and major changes Page 22

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	14%
3-month interbank	13 1/2% - 13%
3-month eligible bills	13 1/2% - 13%
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	7 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills	7.09-7.07%
30-year bonds	10 1/2% - 10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£1.9715	\$1.9715
£2.9066	\$2.9066
£1.9715	\$1.9715
£2.9066	\$2.9066
£1.9715	\$1.9715
£2.9066	\$2.9066

GOLD

London Fixing:	AM \$377.80 pm \$377.80
close	\$379.50-380.00 (£192.25-192.75)
New York:	Close \$379.40-379.90

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec)	\$30.50 bbl (\$50.00)
-------------	-----------------------

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia	2.68	2.51
Austria	21.35	21.35
Belgium	23.36	23.36
Canada	11.63	11.63
Denmark	10.19	10.19
France	10.19	10.19
Germany	10.19	10.19
Greece	10.19	10.19
Italy	10.19	10.19
Japan	10.19	10.19
Netherlands	10.19	10.19
Norway	10.19	10.19
Portugal	10.19	10.19
Spain	10.19	10.19
Sweden	10.19	10.19
Switzerland	10.19	10.19
USA	10.19	10.19
Yugoslavia	10.19	10.19

Prudential faces £250m loss by sale of estate agencies

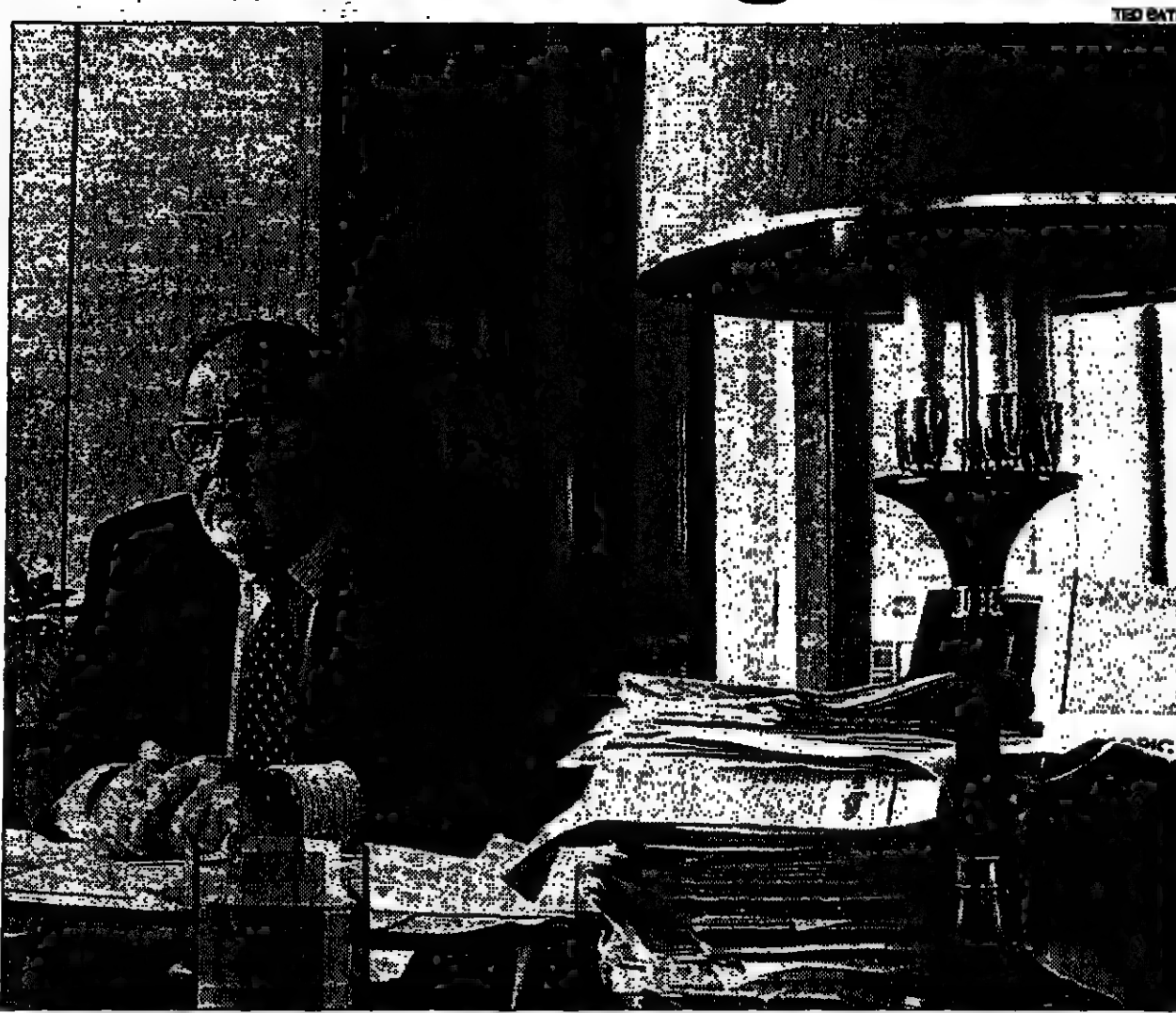
By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PRUDENTIAL Corporation is pulling out of estate agency at a potential loss of more than £250 million.

The insurance group announced it is selling Prudential Property Managers' loss-making chain of 500 branches because it no longer saw it as a "key activity".

SG Warburg, the merchant bank, has been commissioned to look for buyers for either the whole or parts of the chain. Mick Newmarch, the chief executive, said the business was likely to fetch less than £80 million, compared with the £330 million the group has invested in the last five years.

Mr Newmarch said: "It was not an easy decision to make, but we have to have market leadership in all our businesses and the investment we needed to make in estate agency did not stack up against the rewards."



'No longer a key activity': Mick Newmarch, announcing Prudential's decision to leave estate agency, yesterday

The Prudential decision to sell its chain is an about-turn from its entry into the business five years ago, when it planned to build a nationwide chain of 1,000 branches.

At the time, estate agents were believed to be an ideal opportunity to sell savings and pension products to prospective house buyers. At its height, the Pru owned the largest chain in Britain with more than 800 offices.

The expanding chain was hit by the slump in the housing market. It lost £48.9 million last year, and £23.7 million in the first six months of the year. Earlier this year, the Pru wrote off £220 million of goodwill accumulated through the acquisition of regional branches.

Mr Newmarch said estate agency was a local business. It is a cottage industry. To try to replace lost with a corporate structure is very complicated. I am sure it can be done but there is a question over what control you can have over the business. Selling houses is profitable but the business clearly cannot support a high level of central overheads. The agencies offer a strong opportunity to sell endowments, but it is not a significant contributor to our business.

Mr Newmarch said the group had decided to sell the agencies immediately, because their continuing losses would wipe out any gain the company could make by waiting until the housing market recovered.

The decision to sell stemmed from a report by Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte which Mr Newmarch commissioned last year while he temporarily ran the chain before taking up his appointment as chief executive in April.

Mr Newmarch admitted the chain is likely to be broken up before it can be sold, since it is too large to be attractive to the few companies still eager to expand their chains.

Other insurers and building societies rushed to defend the position of their loss-making estate agencies. Royal Insurance, with Britain's largest chain, said it was committed to estate agency. Royal's agencies are expected to lose £18 million this year.

Jim Birrell, chief executive of the Halifax building society, which has a chain of 698 branches, said: "The development of our estate agency network remains a key element of our strategic plans to provide all-round customer service."

The City welcomed the Pru's decision. Kevin Phillips, an analyst with Kleinwort Benson, said: "We firmly believe that companies should get back to basics, rather than mess around on the periphery of things they don't understand."

"We would have been more excited if they had shut down the entire operation, which would have been better news for the whole market."

Mr Newmarch said the disposal would allow the group to concentrate on its core life assurance business.

"We expect to take on a significantly larger market size in life assurance through the distribution channels we already have in place."

Comment, page 23

Stock borrowing loophole causes technical rally

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SHARE prices staged a sudden technical rally on the International Stock Exchange as some market-makers bought to protect themselves against a legal loophole, discovered last week, that could remove their ability to borrow stock from pension funds and insurance companies to cover their trading positions.

Between 8.30 and 9am, the FT-SE All-Share index rose 26 points, or 1 1/4 per cent, largely due to precautionary buying and the index ended 27 points higher at 2,095 after topping 2,105 at lunchtime.

A working party has been set up at the Bank of England to sort out the legal position. The problem is regarded as purely technical but so urgent that it must be resolved in days, even if this involves setting up a new legal basis for stock lending.

Stock lending and borrowing is a traditional practice on the exchange that reduces the capital needed by market-makers to run their books, especially if they are short of stock.

The system is operated via a small number of specialist Stock Exchange money brokers and enables the institutions to make an interest turn on stock lent from portfolios to the market.

Stock is borrowed for settlement of a bargain at the end of the fortnightly Stock Exchange account when a market-maker does not have stock he has sold. The market-maker passes the cash payment from the customer to the money broker, who usually buys a certificate of deposit that acts as collateral for the lender until the stock is returned.

This movement of the stock and collateral has given rise to doubts over whether the collateral might be legally secured in the event of the money broker, or even the market-maker, failing. A stock lender who did not have a specific charge on the collateral might just become a general creditor of the failed company.

Prior to 1986, all individual members of the exchange effectively stood behind all the debts of any firm. But this ceased to be the case after firms were incorporated. Discount houses and others engaged in the money markets have become much more concerned with the exact legal position of time-honoured practices in the wake of the legal judgement over the liability of Hammersmith and Fulham Council over currency swap arrangements.

One group concerned with stock lending received a legal opinion that there was no effective charge over the collateral for stock lending and told other members of the ISE's stock borrowing and lending committee last week.

After a meeting of the committee, chaired by the Bank of England's government broker on Friday, the committee released a statement to the market yesterday morning, which emphasised that the issue was important, but urged the financial institutions to continue lending stock while it was being resolved. The committee said possible solutions had been identified and were being pursued urgently.

The Bank of England has already set up a working party of borrowers, lenders and lawyers with a brief to work out a secure system within days if the present system is inadequate.

Michael Heath of Smith New Court, the market-maker, said there was no need for market-makers to take any action yesterday because it was the first day of a three week account. This might have to be reconsidered after a week if no solution had been found. "If stock could not be borrowed, that would make a big difference to the liquidity of the market. But my guess is that the issue will be resolved in a few days," he said.

Sharpest quarterly decline for ten years shrinks the economy

By COLIN NARBOROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE economy shrank 1.0 per cent between the second and third quarters, its sharpest quarter-on-quarter decline since the last recession ten years ago, government figures show.

The return to negative growth on the provisional, seasonally-adjusted output measure of gross domestic product was greeted in the City as confirmation that Britain has entered recession, though the decline mainly reflects lower North Sea production.

The present quarter should provide the second consecutive quarter of economic shrinkage to meet the standard definition of recession. Against the third quarter last year, the economy grew by half a per cent in the third quarter.

While GDP was in retreat overall between the latest quarters, after 0.3 per cent growth between the first and second quarters, the underlying movement was modest. Excluding oil and gas production, which plunged 6.3 per cent due to maintenance work, GDP shrank by only a quarter of a per cent. "There's no drama here," Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS Phillips and Drew, said. He expects an underlying decline of a half per cent this quarter.

North Sea oil production rose to 1.81 million barrels per day last month from 1.64 mtpd in September, according to estimates by James Capel. This should buoy the economy considerably this quarter.

David Smith, chief economist at Williams de Broe, said that despite warnings about deep recession, the underlying economy has so far "not been that weak."

Manufacturing saw a 1.8 per cent decline in the third quarter, following an 0.9 per cent gain in the second. It was 0.6 per cent down on the third quarter of 1989. Services showed little quarter-on-quarter change, allowing growth against the same period last year of 1.4 per cent, but some economists believe the data understates recent deterioration.

In the money market, interest rates softened about a point on renewed concern about recession, with the key three-month interbank rate closing at 13 1/4-1/2 per cent. The pound ended at 94 on its trade-weighted index, up 0.2 point from Friday.

WPP shares slump by 113p on profit forecast warning

By JOHN BELL
CITY EDITOR

SHARES of WPP, Martin Sorrell's advertising and media group, were badly hit after a warning that profits would not match market forecasts.

They fell by 92p to 300p immediately after WPP said that it would not make the £110 million widely expected for the year to end-December.

Fresh bouts of selling developed despite reassurance from the company that trading continues successfully at significant levels of profitability. By the close WPP shares were 29 per cent down at 279p, showing a fall of 113p on the day. This year they were trading at 715p and have been the subject of several bear raids.

Investors are nervous about the group's high debt level, estimated to be about £325 million. This dwarfs the equity market value of £114 million on yesterday's closing price.

WPP, is one of the world's largest marketing services groups, built through a series of acquisitions by Mr Sorrell, former finance director at Saatchi & Saatchi. It was formerly the "shell" company Wire and Plastic Products, which manufactured supermarket trolleys. WPP now owns two of the leading advertising agencies, J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy and Mather.

The terse statement which triggered the share price collapse said that it now believes its pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 will be somewhat lower than the general level of brokers' published estimates of about £110 million.

"This has only become apparent this month. While results for the final two months of the year normally contribute significantly to profits, the group feels it prudent to lower its expectations for this period and therefore for the full year because of the general economic downturn."

The statement added there were continuing trends of new business gains and despite lowering of expectations, the group continues to trade successfully at significant levels of profitability. Analysts are reworking forecasts for this year, with most cutting estimates to the £85 million to £90 million pre-tax range.

Comment, page 23

French accused of stifling Seaq

From PETER GUILFORD
IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN yesterday accused France of leading a conspiracy to stifle Seaq International, the advanced stock trading network which has poached up to one third of the dealings in stock quoted on the Paris Bourse.

The international branch of the Stock Exchange Automated Quotation system, modelled on America's Nasdaq network, has swept across Europe, giving continental investors the chance to buy "off-market" securities in companies quoted on their own stock exchanges.

Seaq's competitive terms have brought much French business over the Channel and such is its success that Germany is devising a version. John Redwood, junior trade minister, accused France, Belgium and Italy, with Spanish and Greek support, of trying to

strangle off-market trading by calling for it to be regulated within the European Community's investment services directive. The much-disputed directive would offer a "single passport" for investment firms to trade abroad without needing extra clearance in every country. Fearing a further flood of business to the City and eventually to Frankfurt as well, France and its "protectionist" allies want the directive to make certain exceptions for off-market dealing, according to the UK.

One British official accused Belgium, France's chief supporter, of "trying to repatriate business to Brussels," complaining that it was a key motive behind new Belgian stock exchange laws.

With difficulties on Wall Street and Tokyo, and with the added upset caused by uncertainties over the Gulf, trading is patchier than normal in Europe. France and others are new to off-market operations and want to build up the

competitive strength of their own stock markets before throwing the doors open, the UK government believes.

Europe's ideological split over the degree to which industries should be regulated appears to have resurfaced. France and others feel more at home with clear-cut rules. One UK official said the EC directive, which was making progress in most areas, was floundering over its attempts to define the indefinable: namely, what is a stock market?

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[illegible]

1980						1979						1978						1977					
High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Change	High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Change	High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Change	High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Change
100	100	American Airlines	100	100		100	100	American Airlines	100	100		100	100	American Airlines	100	100		100	100	American Airlines	100	100	

● Ex dividend ● Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment pending ● Price at suspension ● Dividend and yield include ● Special payment ● Forecast ● Forecast payments ● Ex other ● Ex rights ● Ex story or

[illegible][illegible]

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 94.0 (day's range 93.9-94.1).

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month	
New York	1.9710-1.9780	1.9710-1.9720	0.98-0.97pc	2.67-2.65pc	Australia dollar — 2.5911-2.5949
					Bahrain dinar — n/a
					Brazil cruzeiro — 231.990-233.065

[illegible]

land	1.8230-1.8248	Denmark	5.6330-5.6380	Italy	1106.0-1107.0
Singapore	1.7078-1.7088	Germany	1.4575-1.4582	Belgium (Com)	30.31-30.38

Argentina	2.9820-2.9830	Switzerland	1.2408-1.2415	Hong Kong	7.7925-7.7936
Australia	1.3114-1.3131	Netherlands	1.6550-1.6560	Portugal	128.80-129.80
Canada	1.7825-1.7835	France	4.9540-4.9560	Spain	93.15-93.25
Sweden	5.5160-5.5210	Japan	126.40-126.50	Austria	10.30-10.34
Norway	5.7485-5.7515				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Exel.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %				
Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar	7 1/8-7 7/8	7 1/2-7 7/8	8 1/4-7 3/4	7 3/4-7 3/4

Young: 2 mth = 13% 3 mth = 18%	Cat: 6-7%				
Adult: 2 mth = 13% 3 mth = 13%	Deutscher:	8%-8	8%-8	8%-8	8%-8
Adult: 2 mth = 13% 3 mth = 13%	Cat: 6-7				
Adult: 2 mth = 13% 3 mth = 13%	French: 8-10	8%-8	8%-8	10%-10	10%-10
Adult: 2 mth = 13% 3 mth = 13%	Cat: 10-9				
Adult: 2 mth = 13% 3 mth = 13%	Swiss: 8-9	8%-8	8%-8	8%-8	8%-8
Adult: 2 mth = 13% 3 mth = 13%	Cat: 8-7				
Adult: 2 mth = 13% 3 mth = 13%	Yam:	8%-7	8%-8	8%-8	8%-8
Adult: 2 mth = 13% 3 mth = 13%	Cat: 7-8				
Adult: 2 mth = 13% 3 mth = 13%	Cat: 7-8				

Opening COs (%): 1 mth: 14%-14 1/2%
 6 mth: 13%-13% 12 mth: 12%-12%
 High: \$376.75-377.25 Low: \$376.50-380.00
 Gold coins (2000) 5-14 1/2%

12 mth 8.00-9% 2 mth 7.75-8.50 12 mth 7.66-7.66
 Floating Security Cds (4%)
 14% 14-14 1/2 2 mth 14-13 1/2 3 mth 13 1/2-13 1/2
 12 mth 13 1/2-13 9 mth 12 1/2-12 12 mth 12 1/2-12 1/2

ECGD

Fixed Rate Starting Export Finance. Make-up day: Oct
 1990 / Agreed rates Nov 26, 1990 to Dec 25, 1990 /
 Theme 1: 15.06 per cent. Schemes 14 & 15: 15.32 per

PRECIOUS METALS

Platinum: \$m 6.42
 Gold: \$m 4.42

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
SE 100					
90	2116.0	2143.0	2112.0	2127.0	2704
91	2157.0	2177.0	2157.0	2165.0	402
Free Month Sterling					
90	88.79	88.64	88.78	88.54	2704
91	88.17	88.30	88.16	88.15	12297
Free Month Eurodollar					
90	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	1620
91	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	1620
Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	
Three month ECU					
Dec 90	89.95		89.95	1531	
US Treasury Bond					
Dec 90	94-13	94-17	94-20	2704	
Long Gilt					
Dec 90	84-14	84-20	84-13	2704	

German Govt Bond			Previous open interest			78435
90	---	90.84	90.84	90.80	4708	
91	---	91.10	91.08	91.07	3028	

COMMODITIES					
LONDON FOR		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
	AMT	Official prices/volume previous day		Rudolf Wotr	
		(2/tonne)	Cash	3 month	Vol
COCA	Dec 699-697				
	Sep 819-817				
	Dec 845-844				
	May 873-871				

Nov 563-004	Jan 576-576	Mar 583-582	Apr 592-591	May 600-599	Jun 607-606	Jul 614-613	Aug 621-620	Sep 628-627	Oct 635-634	Nov 642-641	Dec 649-648	Jan 656-655	Feb 663-662	Mar 670-669	Apr 677-676	May 684-683	Jun 691-690	Jul 698-697	Aug 705-704	Sep 712-711	Oct 719-718	Nov 726-725	Dec 733-732	Jan 740-739	Feb 747-746	Mar 754-753	Apr 761-760	May 768-767	Jun 775-774	Jul 782-781	Aug 789-788	Sep 796-795	Oct 803-802	Nov 810-809	Dec 817-816	Jan 824-823	Feb 831-830	Mar 838-837	Apr 845-844	May 852-851	Jun 859-858	Jul 866-865	Aug 873-872	Sep 880-879	Oct 887-886	Nov 894-893	Dec 901-900	Jan 908-907	Feb 915-914	Mar 922-921	Apr 929-928	May 936-935	Jun 943-942	Jul 950-949	Aug 957-956	Sep 964-963	Oct 971-970	Nov 978-977	Dec 985-984	Jan 992-991	Feb 999-998	Mar 1006-1005	Apr 1013-1012	May 1020-1019	Jun 1027-1026	Jul 1034-1033	Aug 1041-1040	Sep 1048-1047	Oct 1055-1054	Nov 1062-1061	Dec 1069-1068	Jan 1076-1075	Feb 1083-1082	Mar 1090-1089	Apr 1097-1096	May 1104-1103	Jun 1111-1110	Jul 1118-1117	Aug 1125-1124	Sep 1132-1131	Oct 1139-1138	Nov 1146-1145	Dec 1153-1152	Jan 1160-1159	Feb 1167-1166	Mar 1174-1173	Apr 1181-1180	May 1188-1187	Jun 1195-1194	Jul 1202-1201	Aug 1209-1208	Sep 1216-1215	Oct 1223-1222	Nov 1230-1229	Dec 1237-1236	Jan 1244-1243	Feb 1251-1250	Mar 1258-1257	Apr 1265-1264	May 1272-1271	Jun 1279-1278	Jul 1286-1285	Aug 1293-1292	Sep 1300-1299	Oct 1307-1306	Nov 1314-1313	Dec 1321-1320	Jan 1328-1327	Feb 1335-1334	Mar 1342-1341	Apr 1349-1348	May 1356-1355	Jun 1363-1362	Jul 1370-1369	Aug 1377-1376	Sep 1384-1383	Oct 1391-1390	Nov 1398-1397	Dec 1405-1404	Jan 1412-1411	Feb 1419-1418	Mar 1426-1425	Apr 1433-1432	May 1440-1439	Jun 1447-1446	Jul 1454-1453	Aug 1461-1460	Sep 1468-1467	Oct 1475-1474	Nov 1482-1481	Dec 1489-1488	Jan 1496-1495	Feb 1503-1502	Mar 1510-1509	Apr 1517-1516	May 1524-1523	Jun 1531-1530	Jul 1538-1537	Aug 1545-1544	Sep 1552-1551	Oct 1559-1558	Nov 1566-1565	Dec 1573-1572	Jan 1580-1579	Feb 1587-1586	Mar 1594-1593	Apr 1601-1600	May 1608-1607	Jun 1615-1614	Jul 1622-1621	Aug 1629-1628	Sep 1636-1635	Oct 1643-1642	Nov 1650-1649	Dec 1657-1656	Jan 1664-1663	Feb 1671-1670	Mar 1678-1677	Apr 1685-1684	May 1692-1691	Jun 1699-1698	Jul 1706-1705	Aug 1713-1712	Sep 1720-1719	Oct 1727-1726	Nov 1734-1733	Dec 1741-1740	Jan 1748-1747	Feb 1755-1754	Mar 1762-1761	Apr 1769-1768	May 1776-1775	Jun 1783-1782	Jul 1790-1789	Aug 1797-1796	Sep 1804-1803	Oct 1811-1810	Nov 1818-1817	Dec 1825-1824	Jan 1832-1831	Feb 1839-1838	Mar 1846-1845	Apr 1853-1852	May 1860-1859	Jun 1867-1866	Jul 1874-1873	Aug 1881-1880	Sep 1888-1887	Oct 1895-1894	Nov 1902-1901	Dec 1909-1908	Jan 1916-1915	Feb 1923-1922	Mar 1930-1929	Apr 1937-1936	May 1944-1943	Jun 1951-1950	Jul 1958-1957	Aug 1965-1964	Sep 1972-1971	Oct 1979-1978	Nov 1986-1985	Dec 1993-1992	Jan 2000-1999	Feb 2007-2006	Mar 2014-2013	Apr 2021-2020	May 2028-2027	Jun 2035-2034	Jul 2042-2041	Aug 2049-2048	Sep 2056-2055	Oct 2063-2062	Nov 2070-2069	Dec 2077-2076	Jan 2084-2083	Feb 2091-2090	Mar 2098-2097	Apr 2105-2104	May 2112-2111	Jun 2119-2118	Jul 2126-2125	Aug 2133-2132	Sep 2140-2139	Oct 2147-2146	Nov 2154-2153	Dec 2161-2160	Jan 2168-2167	Feb 2175-2174	Mar 2182-2181	Apr 2189-2188	May 2196-2195	Jun 2203-2202	Jul 2210-2209	Aug 2217-2216	Sep 2224-2223	Oct 2231-2230	Nov 2238-2237	Dec 2245-2244	Jan 2252-2251	Feb 2259-2258	Mar 2266-2265	Apr 2273-2272	May 2280-2279	Jun 2287-2286	Jul 2294-2293	Aug 2301-230
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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Pru unpicks its chairman's knitting

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Few group chief executives get away with pumping more than £300 million into a diversification measure which does not work and then go on to become chairman. Sir Brian Corby, however, the chairman of the Prudential, is one that has.

As chief executive, Sir Brian was responsible for the build up of the Prudential's estate agency chain from 1985. An ill-considered venture, but Mick Newmarch, the present chief executive, has rightly dared to unpick the chairman's knitting. Mr Newmarch had no choice, if he was to retain the credibility which is required of Britain's largest and most influential investor, than to shut down one of its own ventures which has brought the Pru little but grief. He had to bit the bullet, even if it hurt his teeth.

Mr Newmarch maintains that estate agency is a local business and unable to support the infrastructure of a national group; that cross-sales of life products are useful, but not significant in overall group terms, and that the Pru can be better served by concentrating on

intermediaries and its traditional sales force. Most importantly Mr Newmarch decided the business was not worth the investment it was calling for.

The Pru's U-turn is costing more than pride. The group spent £330 million building up the chain, and supporting its losses. The group will be lucky to get £50 million back for it. The company has blown most of the £337 million rights issue in 1986 on this one venture. Losses are comparable with those of Ferranti on the International Signal fiasco.

The Pru's attempt to sell its remaining chain of 500 branches (175 have already been closed in an earlier effort to make financial sense of the mess), assuming buyers can be found at all, is bad news for an industry suffering chronic over-capacity. The other main players are doggedly committed to the market, and the Legal & General, which stood back from the initial scramble, is

still building up its position. Cornerstone, Abbey National's chain, may lose £15 million this year yet it has opened 27 new branches. Royal's 753 agencies will lose up to £18 million this year but is unequivocal in its support. Some blame the Pru's problems on its attempt to centralise the agencies' management, others swear the market is about to recover. The overcapacity will last as long as their convictions. When the market does finally pick up, so will the competition as new entrepreneurial agencies open their doors for the duration of the next boom.

The Prudential chairman, meanwhile, has presumably given his silent backing to the

proposed disposal of the estate agencies on which he was once so keen. So far as we are able to ascertain, he made no offer to resign as his policies were reversed. If the Prudential were some other company which had suffered such a substantial avoidable loss, its institutional shareholders might be questioning the chairman's future.

WPP setback

During his whizzkid phase Martin Sorrell cleverly played the bull market's insatiable need for heroes to his own advantage. Now he is wearing the disguise of a humble clerk, trying to assuage investor

anxiety that his highly borrowed WPP may suffer similar difficulties to those of his former employers, the Saatchi brothers.

It will be no easy task. For the reaction to a probable £20 million shortfall in profits this year has been extreme. Ignoring the fact that WPP shares went ex-dividend yesterday, topping a notional 13p from the price, the collapse from 392p to 279p tells its own story.

The numbers do not look sufficiently grim to warrant such treatment. Analysts are, however, looking at profits as the residue between large revenue and large amounts of interest and deferred acquisition costs. They can hardly be blamed for becoming nervous when the profit numbers are shrinking.

WPP says that it has been abreast of its budgets for most of the year, but the October management accounts showed evidence of softening in advertising, more markedly in the US

and Britain than elsewhere. The fourth quarter usually accounts for a third of group profits. On the October evidence a shortfall stretching to £20 million by the year-end appears the most likely outcome.

Investors were hoping that levels of net debt would be down to around £280 million by the year-end. That is a forlorn hope and closer to £315 million is probable. Interest charges are still likely to be covered three times, but the market's concern is turning towards 1991 with analysts braced for a further fall in profits.

Mr Sorrell admits that it is an easy call to make that he overpaid (£525 million) for Ogilvy & Mather, though at the time of its acquisition the expectations were vastly different from today.

The key to WPP's immediate future is beyond Mr Sorrell's control. It lies in the length and depth of the British recession and economic slow-down in the US. Until there are hopeful prospects on these fronts, further gyrations in the shares are almost guaranteed.

Columbia puts Drexel operations in spotlight



Judgment tomorrow: Michael Milken with wife Lori

THE \$4.5 billion claim filed last week against Drexel Burnham Lambert by Columbia Savings and Loan Association provides the first look at Drexel's purported manipulation of the securities markets through the eyes of one of its biggest "junk bond" customers and adds new allegations against the defunct firm.

Columbia's claim was filed with the New York bankruptcy court, which is overseeing Drexel's liquidation. It alleges Drexel used "fraud, market manipulation, monopolisation and other illegal means" to sell the high-yield, high-risk bonds to Columbia from 1982 to 1988.

Columbia is trying to recoup the losses it suffered as the value of its junk bond portfolio fell in the past 18 months from \$4.3 billion to less than \$2.5 billion. Now insolvent, Columbia seems on the verge of being seized by the government.

Many of the allegations mirror those in a similar claim also filed last week against Drexel by federal savings and loan regulators, who contend that the defunct securities firm defrauded dozens of savings institutions to which it sold junk bonds.

But in addition to raising new questions, Columbia's claim attempts to recast the institution's role in the Drexel affair from that of enthusiastic junk bond buyer and staunch Drexel defender to that of unwitting dupe.

A Drexel spokesman said the claims by the federal regulators and Columbia were "generally and specifically misleading" and were part of an effort to make Drexel a scapegoat in the failure of savings institutions.

As much as any company, and more than any savings institution, Columbia, based in Beverly Hills, California, was reshaped during the Eighties by Drexel's aggressive sales of junk bonds.

Thomas Spiegel, Columbia chief executive until last year, was one of the first and best customers of Michael Milken, the former head of junk bond operations at Drexel.

Mr Milken is scheduled to be sentenced tomorrow in the

Manhattan district court after his guilty plea to six counts of fraud and conspiracy related to illegal securities trading.

Throughout the Eighties, Mr Spiegel vigorously defended the bonds as a safe investment for a government-insured savings and loans company. The \$4.5 billion junk bond portfolio he amassed, mainly via Drexel, was by far the largest of any savings institution.

Mr Spiegel, who has long had a combative relationship

with federal regulators, resigned last December as the value of the junk bond portfolio fell. He was replaced by Edward Harsfield, a banker with no previous ties to Columbia.

Mr Harsfield is struggling to avert a government takeover and has repudiated Mr Spiegel's junk bond strategy. Mr Spiegel is under investigation by federal prosecutors in connection with his management of Columbia and his ties to Mr Milken and Drexel. He

has denied any wrongdoing. Last month, Mr Harsfield hired Cravath, Swaine & Moore, the New York law firm, to represent Columbia in the Drexel liquidation. Cravath is also representing the federal savings and loan regulators.

In their separate claims, both Columbia and the government allege that Drexel and Mr Milken were essentially operating a huge fraud, manipulating junk bond prices and misrepresenting the terms of deals to create profits for Mr Milken and his associates, often at the expense of junk bond buyers.

Until Mr Spiegel resigned, Columbia executives had bragged about how well they researched and tracked their junk bond investments. But according to the claim filed last week, in many junk bond deals, the savings institution was little more than a pawn in Drexel's hands.

In particular, the claim portrays Drexel as becoming increasingly willing to resort to fraud in selling junk bonds starting about 1983, as the market for high-yield securities started to fall and federal prosecutors began to close in on Drexel and Mr Milken.

Last year, for example, Drexel engineered the sale to Columbia of \$1.75 million in junk bonds issued by Braniff, the airline that is in bankruptcy proceedings. The claim said Columbia bought the bonds only because Drexel failed to disclose the full extent of Braniff's difficulties.

In another case in the claim, Columbia in mid-1988 agreed to buy, via Drexel, \$31.5 million in subordinated debt and \$16 million in non-voting stock in TriCap, a Bermuda investment partnership set up by Drexel and a subsidiary of American International, a New York insurance firm.

Drexel said it would share decision-making with American International but in practice Drexel controlled the investment decisions. The result was that Drexel had created a "captive buyer" that it used to buy junk bonds and other securities which it was having trouble selling.

(New York Times)

Diploma won for survival

TEMPUS



Profits up: Robin Miller, EMAP chief executive

TWO consecutive years of flat profits — and the prospect of another flat year in sight — is hardly the stuff to make a share stand out from the crowd.

Merely to have survived, however, in the tough electronics, building components, and special steels markets in the year to end-September and yet again to end a year with net cash balances, deserves some brownie points.

On those grounds, and in recognition that there had been a 36 per cent return on capital in 1990, Diploma's shares yesterday rose 3p to 187p.

The 1990 pre-tax profits outcome at £19 million against £19.5 million — though margins eased from 13.9 per cent to 12.8 per cent — was better than might have been expected after interim results six months ago showed half-time profits had slipped by 9.2 per cent.

Diploma remains dead set — as it has for the past two decades — against borrowings, and ended its year with net cash balances of £10 million.

The electronics division appears to have arrested an eight year trend of falling profits and turned in £7.7 million against £6.8 million. Though the setback in the building components division from £8.5 million to £7.4 million comes as no surprise, profitability in the special steels division at 21.7 per cent remains respectably high.

Now that a recession has formally arrived, and while business still waits for interest rates to fall and housing starts to improve, Diploma will have to rely on tighter asset management in 1991 if year-end profits are to advance.

The odds are that Diploma should enjoy a better year in 1991, and though a profits advance to £19.5 million pre-tax will still not set the world on fire, the outcome would be positive.

At 187p, on a prospective rating of 8.6 and backed by a

6.1 per cent yield, the shares have defensive appeal in current markets.

EMAP

HARD times may come and go, but trout fishermen go on forever. Likewise, motorcycle enthusiasts, fell-walkers, gardeners and amateur photographers are unwilling to forgo their simple pleasures, which explains the resilience of EMAP, the magazine and newspaper publisher, in the face of the most dramatic downturn in newspapers and publishing for a decade.

The above enthusiasts and their ilk helped EMAP's consumer magazines division to like-for-like profits growth of 33 per cent in the six months to September 29, holding profits before tax for the group to £13.6 million (£13.4 million), despite the downturn affecting

its local newspapers and business titles.

EMAP has made much of its policy of buying publications at cheap prices, with £45 million spent on acquisitions over the past 18 months. But a pledge that gearing should reduce from 9 per cent to nil by the financial year end suggests that no significant purchases are imminent.

Some further decline is expected from newspapers, which managed a slight profit increase in the first half, while underlying profits from business magazines fell by about a quarter.

The shares, up 5p to 208p in a generally firm publishing sector yesterday, change hands at almost 12 times prospective earnings, assuming £38.5 million pre-tax this year. They are not overvalued, given the group's proven track record and its defensive qual-

ities; but the shares have already recovered from a low of 187p in September, and little immediate progress is likely.

Goldsmiths

SHAREHOLDERS who invested in Goldsmiths Group, the jewellery chain, when it was floated ten months ago at 150p have lost two-thirds of their investment and the chances of recovering it in the short term are not encouraging. The group made pre-tax profits of £44,000 in the six months to September 1, compared with £280,000 last year. Sales rose 13 per cent to £18.1 million, but an increase in fixed costs and administrative expenses as well as a hike in the interest charge from £716,000 to £856,000 meant that pre-tax profits were significantly reduced.

After a maiden interim dividend of 1.5p, the retained loss was £300,000 compared with profits of £811,000. Earnings per share were 0.13p. There is no comparable figure as the group was listed last year.

Goldsmiths makes the bulk of its profits in the second half with 25 per cent of annual sales coming at Christmas and, in theory, it could easily make up the first half shortfall. Last year the group made £4.06 million for the full year. But with uncertainty over Christmas trading and an expected fall in December's retail sales volumes, Hoare Govett, the group's broker, has downgraded its forecast for the full year from £5 million to £3 million.

The second half has started slowly with like-for-like sales flat and there is still a questionmark over the dividend level for the second half. Gearing at the year end will be about 97 per cent, the same as last year. The shares, down 4p at 52p, their lowest since flotation, are trading on just six times earnings. There is little to push them higher in the foreseeable future.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Grande bouffe

SIX sides of smoked salmon, seventy five pounds of gammon and twelve cases of Beaujolais Nouveau would be enough to satisfy most appetites. But in the City, it seems, such fare hardly even raises an eyebrow. The fare in question was delivered to the Butchers Hall in the heart of London last week for the annual Beaujolais Nouveau breakfast, held for those who work in the Square Mile. More than 100 brokers and bankers joined clerks and masters from the City livery houses for the feast, hosted jointly by the Butchers Hall and Chester Boyd, a firm of caterers which provides many of the meals at livery functions. Tables groaned under an array of smoked salmon kedgeree, wild boar sausages and bubble and squeak as the guests worked their way through the Beaujolais and for good measure, a case of Muscadet Nouveau. "I have never seen so much food and wine disappear so quickly," said one observer, who spotted officials from the trade department tucking in with relish. The last reveler left at 11.15, four hours after the feast began, allowing just enough time for a glance at trading screens... before lunch.

Murphy's law

MY STORY that Sir Nicholas Goodison has turned down the chance to bid £35,000 for the 1 — one of many car

number plates due for auction next month — caused some merriment at the offices of USM Magazine, which hosts the annual USM awards. For it brought back memories of Richard Murphy, founder of Xtra-vision, the Dublin video rental company, who paid £77,000 for USM 1 when it came up for auction at the 1990 ceremony earlier this year. After happily signing his cheque, Murphy found to his horror that he was not allowed to use the number plate in his native Ireland. And to make matters worse, the company share price plunged 91 per cent to 8p, finally triggering a bid from Cambridge Group, the leasing and financial services concern. Despite the turn of events, Murphy has clearly not lost his sense of charity. For he has entered the

number plate — or at least the right to use it for a year — as a raffle prize at the 1991 awards dinner, which will be held at the Grosvenor House in March.

IN SAN FRANCISCO there are ten unusually-named hair-dressing salons. They are: Hair Today (Gone Tomorrow), Hair We Go, Head Hogs, Curl Up and Dye, Hair We Are All Tressed Up, Short And Curled, Head Start, Heads You win, and — A Cut Above The Rest.

Main attraction

JUST weeks after moving into their smart new offices opposite the Old Bailey, staff at BDO Binder Hamlyn, the accountant, are finding it difficult to concentrate on their work. For during the recent Terry Marsh trial, so many journalists and photographers crammed into the street outside the central criminal court — directly opposite their own entrance — that it became a struggle to reach the front door. Such events must be all the more puzzling to the employees of Mitsui, the Japanese financial corporation which owns the site and has taken up most of the floors. "We are thinking of setting up a joint canteen to make them feel more at home," says William Casey, managing director of BDO Consulting, who adds that next time almost certainly appear on the menu.



"Which agency should we use to sell them?"

MIN Holdings, the Australian mining group, has hired some

new senior executives who seem very well suited to the job. The global lead and zinc division is to be run by a Ken Dreage, while the corporate development division has been left in the hands of a Peter Slaughter.

Four-minute eggxit

THE London headquarters of Barclays de Zoete Wedd suffered a short but spectacular blaze on Friday. All 1,500 people who work at Ebbgate House — itself a mere stroll from the Monument, designed by Sir Christopher Wren to commemorate a somewhat larger event in 1666 — were forced to flee after a fire broke out in a dining room on the eighth floor. "It took just four minutes to evacuate the building," said a proud BZW spokesman, who adds that fustered employees had to stand about in the cold for more than an hour after the alarms went off at 4.15 pm. A sprinkler system in the building took care of the blaze, thought to have been started by a stray cigarette, although the firm is reluctant to say just who had been using the room on the day. Not amused by the event were members of the corporate finance team, who returned to their desks to find water dripping down the walls and ceiling.

GRAFFITI on a wall at Penzance railway station: "I love Susan Holmes." Beneath it, some wag has added: "By God, Watson, so do I."

JON ASHWORTH

Laventhol votes for chapter 11

PARTNERS in Laventhol and Howard, the seventh largest accountancy firm in America, have voted to file for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The firm, which has annual revenues of \$350 million, has grown over the past ten years through aggressive takeovers.

In the process, however, the Philadelphia firm has been affected by legal suites over its allegedly sloppy accounting work, the latest coming over its audit of Jim Bakker, the television evangelist of the PTL ministry.

The firm is defending itself over its audit of the ministry, which allegedly failed to disclose a series of off-balance sheet accounts.

Arthur Bowman, author of the Bowman report on the accounting industry, said yesterday: "The accounting industry, like many others, is suffering from a lack of profit growth and Laventhol has been hit by potentially crippling law suits at the worst possible time."

At a partners' meeting at the weekend, the firm's 350 partners voted to file for chapter 11 bankruptcy after being faced with a gloomy outlook of its survival chances.

Another option considered was an injection of \$15 million in new capital to keep the firm running.

In 1980, the firm had revenue of \$71 million. Laventhol is reportedly calling in loans it has made to partners, causing at least two of them to put their homes on the market to avoid personal bankruptcy.

The firm's clients include Carl Icahn's Trans World Airlines.

JOHN DURIE
New York

THE TIMES GUIDE TO 1992

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No.	Company	Group	Code	Rate
1	Ulsterbank (ns)	Finance	U	100
2	Lloyds (ns)	Finance	L	100
3	Anglian Water	Water	A	100
4	Kwik Save	Retail	K	100
5	Newman Tunks	Building	N	100
6	Son TV	Electronics	S	100
7	Boots (ns)	Retail	B	100
8	Nat West (ns)	Finance	N	100
9	Crested	Property	C	100
10	RHM (ns)	Food	R	100
11	Rank Org (ns)	Industrial L-R	R	100
12	Cardbury-Schwep (ns)	Food	C	100
13	By Aerospace (ns)	Motor/Aircraft	B	100
14	Stentley	Building	S	100
15	Ridgen	Food	R	100
16	NFC	Transport	N	100
17	Byant	Building	B	100
18	Indecade	Industrial L-R	I	100
19	Lat	Industrial L-R	L	100
20	By Polychem	Industrial A-D	B	100
21	CRB	Industrial L-R	C	100
22	TI (ns)	Industrial S-Z	T	100
23	MBC (ns)	Property	M	100
24	Chatterfield	Property	C	100
25	Barratt (ns)	Industrial A-D	B	100
26	Johnson Matthey	Industrial E-K	J	100
27	Dela	Electricals	D	100
28	Trifield H (ns)	Industrial S-Z	T	100
29	Young A	Beverages	Y	100
30	Verulam Water	Water	V	100
31	Micro Focus	Electronics	M	100
32	Rugby Group	Building	R	100
33	By Telecom (ns)	Telecom	B	100
34	Schroder	Bank/Discount	S	100
35	BET Ord (ns)	Industrial A-D	B	100
36	Hepworth	Industrial E-K	H	100
37	OKN (ns)	Industrial E-K	O	100
38	Hawker Siddeley (ns)	Industrial E-K	H	100
39	Smith WH A (ns)	Drugs/Stores	S	100
40	Kingsfisher (ns)	Drugs/Stores	K	100
41	Reed Int (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	R	100
42	Lloyds (ns)	Bank/Discount	L	100
43	Widening Office	Drugs/Stores	W	100
44	Building	Building	B	100
45	Time Newspaper Ltd	Daily News	T	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

No.	Company	Group	Code	Rate
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	Group	Code	Rate
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Code	Rate
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Code	Rate
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UNDATED

No.	Company	Group	Code	Rate
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INDEX-LINKED

No.	Company	Group	Code	Rate
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Group	Code	Rate
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ELECTRONICS

No.	Company	Group	Code	Rate
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DRAPERY, STORES

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HOTELS, CATERERS

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES
Solid start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end December 7. Settlement day December 10. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 22)

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Divorce law looks set for a radical overhaul in line with recent Law Commission proposals to scrap "quickie" divorces and make divorce a one-year "process over time". Although not billed for this parliamentary session, the proposals — in which the role of fault would be scrapped and couples encouraged jointly to sort out arrangements for children, money and property — have been widely welcomed, and the government will face continuing pressure to act on them.

A central plank of the reforms is a bigger role for conciliation and mediation services to help couples resolve their disputes. The aim is to reduce the bitterness and acrimony of divorce, which many believe the present laws make worse. The idea is that couples should not be forced, as now, to "separate or recriminate", then haggle over children and money, but to decide on future plans first and only then obtain their divorce.

In this critical period, couples should have access to counselling, mediation or conciliation services. In particular, courts will have power to direct spouses to meet a conciliator or mediator to discuss the benefits of conciliation or mediation and give them a chance of taking part if they want, although this would not be compulsory. The conciliator or mediator would then be under a duty to report back to the court on the outcome of the meeting.

The proposals represent a big challenge for conciliation services and the potential for vastly increased demand. Such services are, at present, a cottage industry, variously administered and

The high cost of making broken families happy



Divorce-law overhaul will help couples to

sort out arrangements for property and their children. But, Frances Gibb asks, have the necessary support agencies enough funding

funded, and operating mostly on tight budgets. There are 53 out-of-court schemes in England and Wales under the umbrella body, the National Family Conciliation Council (NFCC), and eight in Scotland under a similar body. Last year, in England and Wales, they jointly helped 6,000 couples in face-to-face discussion, having a success rate estimated at almost 70 per cent. Some charge nothing, others up to £20 a person for a session. Only a fraction of the true costs, estimated to be as little as £300 a case at best, are recoverable by the schemes. Other funding sources include local councils and charities. Couples are referred from bodies such as Relate, formerly the Marriage

Guidance Council, and citizens' advice bureaux. Increasingly, though, work is also coming from the hard-pressed court-based conciliation schemes run by the probation service. Their main emphasis is to help couples sort out problems over children. The conciliators come from a social work or counselling background and their code of practice specifically bars them from dealing with finance or property, which need legal expertise. However a two-year research project has been started to see whether comprehensive conciliation — tackling all problems arising from a divorce — can be offered.

The problem is cost. Legal



Confrontation or conciliation? Counsellors can help couples to try to sort out differences amicably

action means expense for couples. There is no legal aid for conciliation, so the project will try to find how to provide a service with legal involvement which is able to benefit people generally, not just the better-off. Meanwhile, couples are mostly thrown back on obtaining the help of solicitors when they want to sort out the other issues of property and finance.

A new group, the Family Mediators' Association, has, however, been founded, with the sole object of offering an all-in conciliation service. Under this, couples see two trained mediators at the same time — one from a counselling or social work background, the other an experienced family solicitor —

who jointly give couples advice. Diana Parker, a founder and member of the Solicitors' Family Law Association, says: "It seemed very artificial that one was not able, in the same forum, to have discussion over finance as over children. Obviously, the two are inextricably linked. My view is that it is not sufficient to train a mediator from a social-work or counselling background to have some superficial veneer of legal expertise. It is the experience of working as a divorce lawyer that is required."

Ms Parker, though, emphasises that the solicitor-mediator is not acting as a lawyer as such in the sessions: mediation is not a substitute, she says, for independent

legal advice to each person involved. The scheme started in 1988 in London and a wider training programme has now been started.

Each mediator must undertake a five-day course and there are 160 trained mediators now throughout the country. The idea is that without putting pressure on either party or seeking to influence them, mediators can help couples work out a summary of proposals for settlement. Each party is then advised to go to a solicitor for legal advice and it can then be formalised as a legally binding agreement.

The couples can come to media-

tion before, after or during separation or divorce. Sessions usually last one-and-a-half hours at a cost of £60 a person an hour, and of £60 a person an hour, and usually three to six sessions are needed. In an attempt to extend its services to the less well-off, the association has launched a pilot project in Devon, offering mediation to some low-income families at legal aid rates.

Lisa Parkinson, the director of the Family Mediators' Association and a pioneer of conciliation services in Britain, says: "Couples benefit from being able to talk together about possible ways of reaching a settlement and jointly agreeing arrangements with the children."

"However conciliatory solicitors may be, couples may not actually talk together if they see separate solicitors; and some communication is important, particularly where children are involved."

The NFCC and Family Mediators' Association meanwhile want to secure a pledge from the Lord Chancellor for some kind of future funding for the services, whether through legal aid (with couples paying a contribution) or through government grants.

Thelma Fisher, the director of the NFCC, says: "If we were to help even 40 per cent of divorcing couples with children under 16 now going through the courts, it would cost at least £13 million."

Reformists believe, however, that this would be a drop in the ocean against savings in court time and legal costs — and, above all, in human anguish and distress.

© Contact: Family Mediators' Association (081-974 6383); National Family Conciliation Council (0793 514055).

Law Report November 20 1990 Queen's Bench Divisional Court

High Court has jurisdiction over application to stay a criminal trial

Regan v Central Criminal Court, Ex parte Randle and Another
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Hutchison
[Judgment November 15]

The High Court had jurisdiction over an application to stay a criminal trial on the ground of abuse of process because such an application determined whether there should ever be a trial and did not affect the conduct of the trial. A direction that there should be no trial was intended to be final.

However, on the facts, the delay of 20 years in bringing the applicants to trial did not amount to abuse of process.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in rejecting an application by Michael Joseph Randle and Patrick Brian Brindley who sought an order of certiorari to quash the refusal of Mr Justice Macpherson on April 27, 1990 at the Central Criminal Court to stay

criminal proceedings against them and an order of prohibition to prevent their arraignment and trial for aiding the escape of George Blake.

Section 29 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 provides: "(3) In relation to the jurisdiction of the crown court other than its jurisdiction in matters relating to trial on indictment, the High Court shall have all such jurisdiction as make orders of mandamus, prohibition or certiorari as the High Court possesses in relation to the jurisdiction of an inferior court."

Mr Anthony Scriven, QC and Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC for the Crown; Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC and Mr Tom Macdonald for Randle; Mr Julian Bevan and Mr David Calvert-Smith for the Crown; Mr Philip Havers as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that if the application

"related to trial on indictment" the court would have no jurisdiction.

One perfectly sensible construction of section 29(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 involved interpreting the words "relating to" as meaning "leading to or doing with". On the other hand the words could be understood as meaning "arising in the course of".

The applicants contended broadly for the first meaning, the Crown and Mr Havers for the second.

There was no authority directly on the point, although observations of Lord Bridge of Harwich in *In re Smalley* (1983) AC 622 favouring a narrow interpretation were a helpful pointer. The arguments on the issue were nicely balanced and difficult to resolve.

The respondents argued that the present application was similar to an ordinary application to quash the indictment, but that was not convincing.

It might be that technically the trial of a defendant did not begin until arraignment; but in reality an application to quash was part and parcel of the trial process, invariably made at the court of trial on the day fixed for trial and determined as one of the preliminary matters affecting trial.

An application to stay on the ground that the proceedings were an abuse of process seemed to their Lordships to be in an altogether different category. It was an attempt to stop the trial taking place, not by reason of some defect in the indictment, but on grounds quite separate and distinct.

It was an application based on principles of fairness and justice, and the contention was that it would be unjust that there should be a trial at all. It was not part of the trial process in the sense that an application to quash was.

Their Lordships were inclined to accept the applicants' pri-

mary submission that a decision on an application to stay on the ground of abuse of process did not affect the conduct of a trial on indictment, because what was being determined was whether there should ever be a trial.

However, that conclusion was permissible only by distinguishing *R v Central Criminal Court, Ex parte Raymond* (1986) 83 Cr App R 341, where Lord Justice Woolf had held that an order that an indictment should lie on the file was "an order affecting the conduct of the trial" and thus not subject to judicial review.

In their Lordships' view *Raymond* could be distinguished on the basis that a stay on the ground of abuse of process contemplated that there never would be a trial whereas an order that the indictment lie on the file marked "not to be proceeded with without leave" contemplated that there might be.

It did not matter that there were circumstances in which a stay on the ground of abuse of process might be revoked or lifted: the crucial point was that such a stay, a direction that there should be no trial, was intended to be final. It was that basis that their Lordships had accepted earlier in the hearing of the application that they had jurisdiction.

Early in 1989 the applicants had published their book *The Blake escape. How we freed George Blake and why*, giving a detailed account of their damaging conduct in aiding Blake to escape from prison and gain the sanctuary of Russia.

It was a bare-faced chronicle of giving aid to a spy without or without parallel. There was now a confiscation order on the proceeds of its sale.

The applicants had submitted that there had either been a policy decision by the police in 1970 not to prosecute them following the publication of *The Blake escape* by Sean Bourke, their alleged co-conspirator.

Alternatively, they said that the police had been grossly negligent not to carry out enquiries of the applicants whose identity and alleged role in Blake's escape was clearly

discernible from Bourke's book.

Their Lordships did not accept those submissions. The court had heard witnesses, including former Detective Chief Inspector Watts of Special Branch and a Miss A of MI5, and what they had said had confirmed the view of Mr Justice Macpherson that there was no policy decision.

The applications concerned primarily delay. They were not about any kind of inability in the applicants fairly and properly to defend themselves against the charges. In the light of the contents of their book the applicants could not claim fading memory.

There was clear authority for the proposition that delay by itself if it was long enough, could be such as to render criminal proceedings an abuse of process.

It had been urged on the court that it would be scandalous to prosecute over events which took place more than 20 years previously; that the applicants' circumstances had so changed that it was no longer in the public interest to prosecute them and that although the offences charged were serious the maximum penalty was only five years imprisonment.

Their Lordships did not accept that it was irrelevant that the courts might suspect the applicants had no good defence. There was a significant difference between a case where guilt was squarely in issue and one in which it was suspected that it was not, or might not be. In this case it was far from being the most influential of the matters which should govern the decision.

It could not validly be argued that the police were at fault for not bringing proceedings earlier. Mr Justice Macpherson had been right to reject the contention that it would be wrong to prosecute because the applicants were under a compulsion to act the record straight and tell the true escape story.

This was an extraordinary and unique case. The delay was very long but not long enough to disable the vast majority of British people from recalling the consternation caused by the Blake escape and its serious implications.

Some people might sympathise with the applicants' predicament. It was not for their Lordships to say whether that sympathy was misplaced.

The applications would be refused. Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co, Southwark; CPS; Treasury Solicitor.

Safety of other road users takes priority over police exercise

Agnew v Director of Public Prosecutions
Before Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Morland
[Reasons November 9]

A crown court erred in not finding "special reasons" in circumstances where the defendant was, at the time of driving without due care and attention, a police officer on duty taking part in a police training exercise which required him to try to keep under surveillance another police car.

Nevertheless, in the present case the Divisional Court would not exercise its discretion in favour of the defendant to remove an endorsement and penalty points on his driving licence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in giving reasons for its decision on November 2 to dismiss an appeal brought by way of case stated by the defendant, Thomas Ivan Agnew, from the dismissal by Wood Green Crown Court (Judge McWilliam and Justice) on May 3, 1989 of his appeal against sentence imposed by Enfield Justices on March 10, 1989.

The defendant had pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention contrary to section 3 of and Schedule 4 to the Road Traffic Act 1972. He was fined £150 and his licence was endorsed and five penalty points imposed.

Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning for the defendant, Mr Charles Leonard for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE MORLAND said that the crown court had

found, *inter alia*, that the defendant was engaged in a police training exercise on the public road. He was driving an unmarked police vehicle and crossed a red traffic signal. His vehicle was in a minor collision with another vehicle travelling lawfully across the junction. The defendant saw the other vehicle before impact and stopped.

The defendant crossed the red light deliberately and in attempted compliance with instructions. His duty was to carry out a surveillance following a target car. The exercise was intended to be realistic.

The defendant's training school had instructed him to treat red traffic signals in the same manner as a give-way sign but to do that only when the requirements of the exercise clearly justified it. Mr Carter-Manning contended that the fact the defendant was on a police training exercise should amount to special reasons why there should be no endorsement or imposition of penalty points.

The crown court had said, *inter alia*, that while a real emergency or operational imperative on a police or other driver by outside circumstances might justify a different order of priorities from that normally observed when driving on the road, participation in an exercise, however useful, was not so imposed and could not be equated with the pressures of a real situation.

In his Lordship's opinion both Mr Carter-Manning and the crown court had erred in elevating the circumstances of an individual case to a category which could amount in law to special reasons.

The correct approach was for the court to consider the circumstances of the case and determine whether they satisfied the four conditions laid down by Lord Goddard, Lord Chief Justice, in *Whitall v Kirby* (1947) KB 194 and highlighted by Mr Justice Devlin in *R v Williams* (1958) 42 Cr App R 236.

The conditions were (i) a mitigating or extenuating circumstance (ii) not amounting to a defence in law (iii) which was directly connected with the commission of the offence and (iv) that the matter was one which the court ought properly to take into consideration when imposing punishment.

If the court had found special reasons, it had to exercise judicially its discretion whether or not to disqualify or endorse the licence and impose penalty points.

In the present case the four conditions were fulfilled but the court's discretion would not be exercised in the defendant's favour.

There were two competing considerations. The first was the need for realistic police driver training in actual road conditions and the second, the safety of lawful users of the highway.

The second had always to be paramount. The defendant did not comply with the instruction to treat the red traffic signal as a give-way sign; instead he entered the junction failing to see the other vehicle until too late.

Lord Justice Taylor delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Russell Jones & Walker, CPS, Wood Green.

Necessity of clear and explicit direction as to character

Regina v Kabiriti
Before Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Hirst and Mr Justice Popplewell
[Judgment November 7]

There could be few exceptions to the need for an explicit and clear direction as to character in those cases where character and credit were in issue but those occasions on which a defendant had previously lied during the course of an investigation were not among them.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) so held when refusing the appeal of Waed Kabiriti against his conviction at the Central Criminal Court on October 7, 1988 (Judge Nina Lowry and a jury) of offences of rape and buggery of a girl aged 14 and his sentence of 12 years imprisonment.

Mr John Harwood-Stevenson, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appel-

lant, Mr David Bate for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the appellant was a Jordanian, now aged 23, who had been a student in England since 1981.

The ground of the appeal was that the judge had misdirected the jury in relation to the character of the defendant. A passage in *Archbold, Criminal Pleading, Evidence & Practice* (43rd edition (1988) paragraph 4-436) referred to it not being necessary in summing up to make any reference to the character of the defendant.

Reference counsel in his final address had explicitly gone through the guidance set out in *R v Berrada* (The Times February 20, 1989) for the judge when dealing with character. The necessary to give the benefits of counsel setting out the guidelines but they had not had

the direction from the judge. That was regrettable. There was duty on the judge to give directions on the lines clearly set out in *Berrada*.

In the case of *R v Watson* (unreported, CA February 19, 1990) in the course of which judgment *Berrada* had been cited with approval, the impression given might have been that such a direction on character might not be necessary where the defendant had previously told lies in the course of the investigation.

If that was that court's intention then their Lordships did not agree. It clearly was necessary to give the direction whether the defendant had told lies before the trial or not.

The occasions on which it was not necessary to give it were very few and certainly not when in a case of any seriousness. Solicitors: CPS, HQ.

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Closing date for applications: Friday, 30th November, 1990

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Leading firm seeks solicitor min 3 years PQE to head up division specialising in personal tax, wills and trusts. Imminent partnership for high-flyer. Following not required.

PENSIONS LAWYER/ADMINISTRATOR £30,000 City
Solicitor 1-3 years PQE or unqualified "documentator" from insurance, sought to handle pensions. Experience required.

London PARTNERS To £200,000
We are currently instructed by 25 partner firm seeking partners/designates, with following £70,000 + in company/commercial litigation/commercial property to join their lucrative practice.

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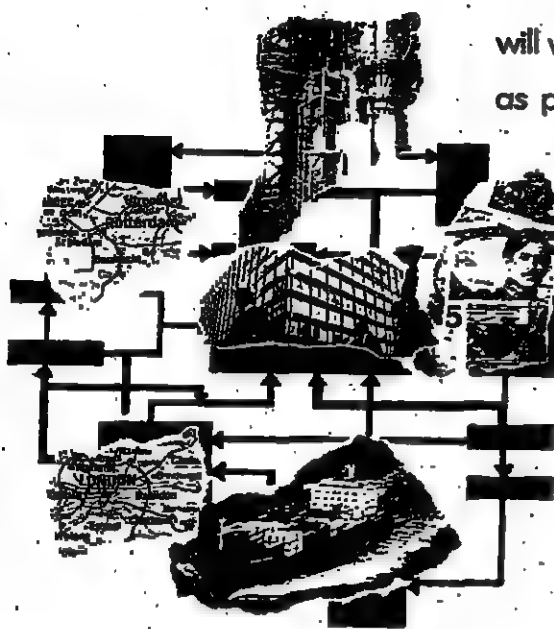
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This is a challenging opportunity for an accomplished Solicitor with approximately 15 years experience since admission. Reporting directly to the Society's Secretary, who is a Solicitor, you will be expected to take Executive responsibility for the Legal Services Department leading its team and liaising with external Solicitors. Knowledge of Building Society Law, though an advantage, is not essential at this stage.

You should possess expertise in all aspects of Conveyancing including Commercial Conveyancing and Commercial Development, Residential Housing Development and Building Finance as well as Mortgage-related work. Practical experience of Planning, Banking and Consumer Credit Lending Law

and practice will be an advantage. Knowledge of Financial Documentation and Commercial Contracts will also be desirable. You will be expected to familiarise yourself with Mortgage Law and you should be prepared to undertake a managerial role in relation to litigation services and the enforcement of Mortgage Arrears.

Applicants for this post should be analytical and self motivated with excellent communication and team building skills and will be expected to offer the highest standards of professional service.

In addition to a competitive salary we offer a company car, subsidised mortgage and an attractive benefits package, including relocation assistance where appropriate.

Interested and suitably experienced candidates should write with full CV, quoting current salary, to Bernard Dixon, Assistant General Manager (Personnel & Training), Portman Building Society, Portman House, Richmond Hill, Bournemouth, Dorset BH2 6EP. Telephone 0202 292444.



PORTMAN
BUILDING SOCIETY

Commercial Law

BERKS TO £40,000
This leading international telecommunications and high technology company has an opportunity for a solicitor aged 28 to 35 with at least 3 years' experience to handle contractual and general commercial matters.

SOLE LAWYER TO £35,000 + CAR
This well known multi-national technology company based in Leicestershire currently requires a company secretary/legal advisor to handle a very broad range of commercial work in its small legal department.

COTSWOLDS TO £30,000 + CAR
An assistant legal advisor is sought to join this well known company based in the Cotswolds. Applications are invited from solicitors with a minimum of 1 year's commercial experience, ideally gained within the industrial sector.

The above are only a small selection from the positions we are currently instructed to fill. We are qualified lawyers with extensive experience in legal recruitment and all approaches are treated in strict confidence.

LITIGATION TO £40,000
This small Holborn firm has an excellent opportunity for an experienced (at least 3 years' qualified) litigation solicitor to supervise other fee earners involved in a range of mainly financial litigation on behalf of institutions.

LITIGATION TO £40,000
This well known central London firm involved in media law requires a high calibre solicitor two to four years' qualified to handle commercial litigation with an emphasis on international real estate cases.

CAMBRIDGE TO £25,000
This major practice is seeking an 18 month to 2 year qualified matrimonial and family solicitor to undertake high quality private work. The position is ideally suited to a confident 'self starter' capable of working unsupervised.

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LITIGATION TO £32,000 + BENS.
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BANKING TO £25,000
The London office of this leading international bank has an outstanding opportunity for a law graduate or newly qualified barrister to train on swaps documentation, Eurobonds and general legal work.

Please telephone Laurence Simons, Shona McDougall or Patrick Aford on 071-531 5270 (071-463 1899 evenings/weekends) or write to: Laurence Simons Associates, 33 John's Mews, London WC1N 2JL.

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Coping with the Recession

Within the last two months, in the South East and especially in London, hundreds of lawyers have been made redundant, or have had to leave at the end of their articles. Considering how desperate most firms were to recruit staff even last year, and the reluctance they must now feel to let staff go, one can see how pessimistic the profession has become about the deepening recession.

Those facing unemployment can draw reassurance from the knowledge that they are in good company. Redundancy in present circumstances does not reflect on their professional competence, and admitting to it in their C.V. will no longer prejudice their prospects. Two years ago every redundancy required lengthy explanation. Today they pass without comment.

It is now widely accepted that the key to finding a new employment is flexibility—flexibility as to the type of job you are willing to take and flexibility as to its location. This in turn implies a forthright acceptance of your situation: a recognition that the recession, through no fault of your own, will probably cause some setback to your career. Recognition, too, that such a setback will be temporary.

On a rather practical matter: it helps if candidates have their own telephone answering machine. If they no longer have an office with a secretary to take their calls they should be able to receive messages when they are not at home. We often need to leave urgent messages for interviewees, arranging interviews for the following morning. Relying on the post is not always effective.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY & BANKING

SOLE LAWYER: LONDON

£235,000 + benefits
Major multi-national group seeks experienced commercial lawyer for UK. Must be fluent in French.

H-Tech: SOUTH EAST

Excellent Package
Well known international corporation seeks commercial lawyer with about 4 yrs' experience including—ideally—experience in high technology.

LITIGATION PARTNER

Well known medium-sized City firm seeks senior commercial litigator with established reputation in own field. Salary: £100,000 +

CORPORATE SERVICES: TAX HAVEN

Excellent remuneration
Well established corporate services group requires lawyer for wide range of trans-national tax, business and investment planning.

SOLE LAWYER: LONDON

£250,000 + benefits
Rare opportunity for commercial lawyer to join international industrial services group. Considerable overseas travel.

COMMERCIAL LAWYER: SOUTH WEST

£230,000 + car
Solicitor or barrister, qualified about 3 yrs, to handle commercial work, including intellectual property, with international company.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Banking Lawyer: City

Excellent work, salary & prospects offered by medium-sized firm to expand banking lawyer.

Construction Litigation: West End

High prospects for senior litigator with flourishing dept of highly-regarded commercial firm.

Partnership Prospects: Wiltshire

Young litigator with all-round experience to join large successful firm: to £24,000.

Pipeline Conveyancers: Holborn

Experienced conveyancer 3-4 yrs qual with some knowledge of planning for mid-sized firm.

Company/Commercial: West Midlands

Highly-regarded expanding firm seeks 2-4 yrs qual solicitor. Excellent partnership prospects.

Capital Markets: London

Fast-growing medium-sized firm seeks experienced lawyer to join extremely busy department.

Finance Litigation: Liverpool

Leading commercial firm seeks solicitor, 2-5 yrs qual, for high-quality dept. Definite prospects.

Shipping Litigation: City

Recently qualified litigator to handle 'dry' shipping lit with leading commercial firm.

Corporate Tax: City

Medium-sized firm seeks 2-3 yr qual solicitor to handle corporate and property transactions.

Company/Commercial: Bedfordshire

Commercially-oriented lawyer with following for early partnership with prominent firm.

Personal Injury: Hampshire

High-calibre plaintiff PI litigator for leading south-coast practice. to £25,000.

Commercial Litigation: Holborn

1-3 yrs qual. Expect of copyright or construction an advantage. International clients. Prospects.

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Amanda Prince

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General Litigation £ market rate
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Commercial Property £ above average
Newly qualified solicitor sought for leading North Eastern practice to join thriving commercial department. Good academics and previous commercial property experience necessary, together with enthusiasm and commitment. Partnership will be offered to right individual.

Commercial £ competitive
City office of leading bank requires experienced commercial and banking solicitor for secured mortgage debentures and general commercial work. Substantial package and benefits.

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Sarah Jordan - Locum
Amanda Boyd - Paralegal
Clare Tattersall - Manager



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- * ambition, energy and a sense of humour

Good prospects and salary package.
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The dramatic increase in Banking work at Taylor Joynson Garrett continues. The Department is seeking at least two first-rate banking lawyers to join a young highly motivated team servicing top quality banking clients.

The work includes:

- Complex and often creative project finance packages.
- Syndications and single lender facilities (advising UK and foreign banks and borrowers).
- Secured lending on various assets including land, ships and aircraft.
- International transactions liaising closely with the firm's US and Japanese affiliates.

Successful candidates will have at least two years' relevant experience; as important however is the ability to communicate effectively with clients and work well within the team.

The firm pays highly competitive City salaries reflecting its desire to recruit additional potential partners to the Group.

Please apply in writing to Malcolm Ring (Managing Partner) or Margaret Mannell (Head of Administration) at Taylor Joynson Garrett, 180 Fleet St., London EC4A 2NT.

TAYLOR JOYNSON GARRETT

CONSTRUCTION LAW
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Our Client, a leading City law firm, seeks a senior lawyer to head its established Construction Department.

The Department handles pre-contract advice, the negotiation and drafting of building contracts, professional appointments and all aspects of building litigation and arbitration for a diverse range of developers, contractors, engineers, architects, surveyors, insurance companies and financial institutions.

The successful candidate, who is likely to be a partner in another City firm or a senior lawyer in the construction industry with private practice experience, will have substantial relevant experience and will relish the opportunity to head a successful department and spearhead the next stage of growth in this area of the firm's practice.

The total financial and partnership package will be highly attractive.

For further information, please contact Alistair Dougall on 01-405 6062 (081-773 3702 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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PROFESSIONAL
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We wish to recruit a young Solicitor with up to 2 years post-qualification experience in commercial litigation who would welcome the challenge and intellectual stimulation of working in a major City firm.

The successful applicant will be joining a busy team specialising in professional indemnity claims. The atmosphere is informal and remuneration competitive with City rates.

A good academic record is required. Previous experience in this field would be an advantage but is not necessarily essential.

Please write with a full CV to:

Albert Rogers
Ince & Co
Knollys House
11 Byward Street
London EC3R 5EN

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Hampshire

c.£25,000 a.a.e.

We are presently retained by one of the largest firms on the south coast with an outstanding reputation for the quality of its commercial clients and caseload.

The firm is extremely progressive, being run on commercial business lines and practising in a buoyant sector which is enjoying economic expansion with further demonstrable growth to develop.

The Partners wish to appoint a young SOLICITOR (0-4 years ppe) to join the commercial property department. As the successful applicant is expected to play a major part in future development, he/she will need to be technically and intellectually very able and possess a gregarious and outgoing personality.

We will be available for informal discussions at the following locations on Friday 30th November and Monday 3rd December respectively from 12 noon to 8pm.

The Dolphin Hotel,
County Suite,
High Street, Southampton
(30.11.90)

The Law Society,
Room J, 113 Chancery Lane,
London
(3.12.90)

Approaches will be handled on a strictly confidential basis if desired and/or a preliminary discussion could also be arranged with a Senior Partner of the firm if preferred.

For further information, please contact either TERRY ROSE or ANNA WADDINGTON, quoting ref: 90A/477T at Daniels Bates Partnership Ltd., 9 Prebendal Court, Oxford Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP19 3EY or telephone them on (0295) 393040 (24 hour answering service). YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE.

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Applications are invited for the above post from suitably qualified (RNC level or equivalent) and experienced Electrical Engineers. A sound working knowledge of relevant legislation, e.g. Health & Safety at Work, I.E.E. Regs. 1960 Edition, Electricity at Work Act etc., is essential.

The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of the electrical installations throughout the Force and will also be expected to undertake the physical maintenance and testing of the main Operational Stations and the design of systems on Minor Capital Works.

A full driving licence is required and a vehicle and equipment will be provided.

Application form and Job Specification are available from:

The Chief Constable, North Wales Police, Police Headquarters,
Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8AW
Tel: (0492) 517171 ext. 316

Closing date for receipt of applications: December 2, 1990.

COMMERCIAL PARTNER

Hampshire

c.£50,000

This represents an outstanding opportunity to join one of the largest firms in Hampshire with an enviable reputation for the quality of its total legal service to a substantial base of PLC and Private Clients.

The firm is extremely progressive being set up and run on commercial business lines. The area is enjoying continued economic expansion providing further demonstrable growth potential to develop.

The Partners wish to appoint an experienced COMMERCIAL SOLICITOR with significant PLC and private company experience of formations, mergers, acquisitions, takeovers, commercial agreements etc. The successful candidate will play a key role in developing the firm's corporate activity.

Candidates should have an excellent academic record as well as a robust and outgoing personality with the ability to develop a rapport with clients and colleagues.

We will be holding informal meetings at the following locations on
Friday 30th November and Monday 3rd December respectively from
12 noon to 8pm.

The Dolphin Hotel, County Suite, The Law Society, Room J,
High Street, Southampton 113 Chancery Lane, London
(30.11.90) (3.12.90)

Approaches can be handled on an anonymous basis if preferred and a preliminary conversation could also be arranged with a Senior Partner of the firm.

For further information, please contact either TERRY ROSE or ANNA WADDINGTON, quoting ref: 90A/479T at Daniels Bates Partnership Ltd., 9 Prebendal Court, Oxford Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP19 3EY - (0296) 393040 (24 hour answering service). YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE.

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City/West End

PROPERTY TAX c.£45,000

A respected and progressive City practice has instructed us to introduce an experienced property tax solicitor admitted 2/3 years. He/she will be handling and advising on the taxation/VAT aspects of a variety of transactions including purchases and sales of property, lettings, mortgages, portfolio transactions, property development and funding together with more general corporate/commercial matters. This is an excellent opportunity with very good prospects.

Out of London

LITIGATION & ATTRACTIVE

An expanding South West practice needs a solicitor to be head of its Litigation Department. Ideally applicants will have at least five years relevant experience with a preference for civil matters. Remuneration will be generous and the right applicant can expect early partnership.

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ASSISTANCE lawyers with one year's PQ (including property/development) required for prospective Client/retail firm. Excellent salary, central London. Contact: Law Personnel (071) 253 5311.

LAW COSTS distribution needed for large city practice. Role & service in West. Enquiries: Law Personnel (071) 253 5311.

LITIGATION solicitor 2-5 yrs PQ sought for progressive City practice. 2 yrs PQ and need under 30. Full range of interesting work. Highly motivated and... Contact: Law Personnel (071) 253 5311.

PRIVATE CLIENT solicitor required for progressive City practice. 2 yrs PQ and need under 30. Full range of interesting work. Highly motivated and... Contact: Law Personnel (071) 253 5311.

DIRECTOR

LEICESTER
SALARY TO £30,000

Environment City is a far reaching national campaign designed to encourage environmental thinking from all sections of the community. Leicester has been designated the first Environment City and will become fully operational for say 1991.

We are looking for an energetic and visionary Director who is motivated to secure recognition and success for the campaign. Environment City is a partnership between public, private and voluntary sectors and the Director will report to the Leicester Executive of Environment City.

This exciting opportunity should appeal to an outstanding individual who has first-class communication and organisation skills, along with a firm grasp of environmental issues. The ideal candidate will possess the necessary vision and ambition to attract significant sponsorship from industry.

The Director will liaise with a range of statutory bodies and will be instrumental in developing a dynamic public relations strategy. Equally importantly, he/she will closely monitor the progress of all aspects of the campaign.

If you are concerned about the environment and possess a caring vision of the future, contact the Chairman of the Executive, Prof. David Eddick, P.O. Box 143, Leicester, LE1 9BH for an application form and information pack.

Closing date: 22nd November.

Interviews will be held on 30th November.

This is a re-advertisement. Previous applicants need re-apply.



This appointment will be made on equal opportunity basis for an initial 4 year contract.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

2are* HEAD OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

Experienced person required for small charity (approx 170 staff). Formal accounts and/or personal qualifications an advantage. A challenging post requiring energy and commitment. Central Office team based at Fulham. Salary c. £20,000.

Please apply with CV to Chief Executive, 2Care, 13 Harwood Road, London, SW6QP, tel 071 371 6118.

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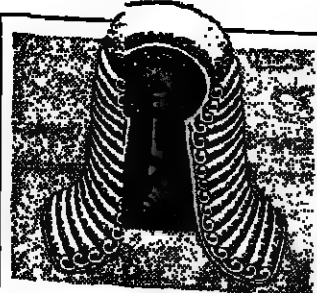
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plus car option

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The Times Law Awards 1990

YOUNG people with an interest in law are invited to take part in The Times Law Awards 1990 competition, sponsored by Fishburn Boxer, the London solicitors.

To enter write an essay of no more than 700 words on the issue: *Should the law restrict the right to know?*

The closing date for the receipt of essays is Friday, November 30, 1990. Entrants must be between the ages of 17 and 24 on that day. The winning entries will be announced January 1991 at an awards dinner at the Savoy, London.

Prizes: The winner will receive £2,000 cash, second prize £1,000 and third prize £500. **Judges:** Lord Chancellor, Lord MacKay of Clashfern, Simon Jenson, editor of The Times, and Clive Boxer, senior partner at Fishburn Boxer.

Rules: 1. The competition is open to all readers of The Times (except employees of Fishburn Boxer, Times Newspapers and News International and their families) who are aged between 17 and 24 on Friday November 30, 1990. The Times reserves an express licence to publish, at any time, all or any part of the essay.

2. Entrants should bear in mind that the essay must be the sole creation of the entrant. It must not be a copy of any published work, nor should it contain any plagiarised material. The Times reserves the right to delete or omit from any published essay anything that, in the absolute discretion of the editor, should not be published on editorial or legal grounds.

3. All entries will be acknowledged but will not be returned. 4. Entrants must be no more than 700 words typed with double spacing, on top sheet should carry the entrant's name, address, age, date of birth and home or daytime telephone number. If you are a student please include your subject(s) of study. 5. Entries should be sent to: The Times Law Awards, Epigram Associates, New Russia House, 28-30 Lda Russell Street, London E1A 2EN, to be received no later than November 30, 1990. A competition helpline is available on 0858 200251.

Experts with a role to play

Solicitors make too little use of their legal executives. Edward Fennell outlines their value

Legal executives are a great under-utilised resource. Firms with scores of partners and hundreds of lawyers frequently have a dozen or fewer legal executives. Yet a qualified legal executive can provide a professional service that benefits the client and is cost-effective for the firm.

Legal executives are under-used and under-appreciated because of one of the fundamental flaws in the modern solicitor's make-up. Solicitors tend to be mediocre management delegators and, because of the emphasis given to their professional qualifications, people at lower levels are in danger of being under-rated.

However, now that greater emphasis is being given to making the most of all members of a firm, two themes are emerging.

First, employing legal executives can provide an alternative means of obtaining fully qualified solicitors. Gerry Cronin, who recently gained honours in the Law Society finals, is a good example. He joined Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens, the London firm, as a clerk, aged 16. The firm paid his fees and gave him study time, and he qualified as a legal executive. He was allowed then, under Law Society rules, to train as a solicitor. As a result, Denton Hall now has a solicitor in the litigation department who is a highly experienced practical lawyer, and it has not had the problems and expense of graduate recruitment.

Mr Cronin's success is likely to be echoed at Nabarro Nathanson. Rich-



Assets to any practice: some of the legal executives under training at Nabarro Nathanson, the London firm

ard Holt, a partner, who was previously a legal executive, is encouraging the development of a legal executive programme that could lead others to take that path to become solicitors. Richard Norrie, the director of studies at the Institute of Legal Executives, says there could be a growing number of talented school-leavers who are deterred by the cost of higher education but want to become better qualified through a "vocational" route. This may take longer than the degree system, but it is much cheaper and gives a greater view of legal practice.

Second, the legal executive qualification is a worthwhile qualification in itself, and it can solve skill needs for many high-street firms that cannot attract graduates. Mr Norrie says the legal executive

qualification is increasingly popular with those aged between late twenties and late thirties, particularly women returners. They realise it is a qualification that will benefit them for the rest of their careers.

To make the qualification system as accessible as possible, the Institute of Legal Executives tutorial services (ITS) provides a home study tuition service so that trainees can prepare for the examinations by themselves. The records show that ITS students have a 50 per cent better chance of passing the examinations than those who have studied elsewhere.

The hitch is in partners' attitudes. Many "para-legals" in Britain do not have qualifications, have not received formal training and have no

clear career development path. Their training and responsibilities are treated on a characteristically British ad hoc basis. The individuals who have pursued qualifications have usually depended on their own drive and determination, and an employer's backing tends to be a reward for good service.

Mr Holt and Mr Norrie, however, argue that support staff should be placed on a career and qualification path because it makes good sense for the firm. Qualified staff are usually better motivated and understand better what they are doing. The result is less need for supervision and more billable hours for assistant solicitors and partners.

© Institute of Legal Executives, Kempston Manor, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7AB (0234 841000).

INNS AND OUTS

Freshfields has now opened its Frankfurt office, complete with its team of German lawyers, but the local competition may be hotter than expected. Faced with a steady flow of British and American firms opening in Frankfurt, and their declared intention to practise local law, domestic German firms are showing they intend to fight back. The latest response is the creation of Germany's largest law firm through the merger of three leading practices: Bruckhaus Kretzfeld Winkhaus & Lieberknecht, Westrick & Eckholdt, and Stegemann Sieveking Lutteroth & Steeger. The firm will have 100 lawyers. The three firms pull no punches in explaining their merger decision. They are responding not only to the changed demands of German and international business, "but also to the competition of foreign law firms with many hundreds of lawyers". They point out that some have both German and foreign lawyers. In the Sixties French law firms failed to recognise the threat from British and American firms and they lost lucrative international and financial related work. Freshfields may believe it is competing with English and American rivals, but if it expects a repeat of its French experience, it should think again.

Whatever the outcome of the Conservative leadership election and Michael Heseltine's pledge to review the community charge, the effect of the unpopular tax is being felt throughout Britain on the citizens' advice bureaux. The bureaux are often the first port of call for people with legal problems, and many of them are funded at least in part by local authorities. Cuts are being made by a number of authorities, both Labour and Conservative - Basildon Council has reduced its grant to the three bureaux in the borough by a quarter and North Tyneside has completely cut its grant to North Shields bureau with effect from October 1. Other centres, such as the two in the Surrey borough of Elmbridge, have had a last-minute reprieve, but the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux is growing increasingly concerned about funding for the network and is seeking a commitment from central government.

Strange it may seem, but Oxford has never had a lecturer in commercial law. Appalled by this deficiency, an Oxford-based firm of solicitors, Linnells, has donated £100,000 to the Campaign for Oxford to fund the post of a commercial lecturer for at least seven years. The lectureship will be connected to St Anne's College. Until now the college has had just one law fellow and has had to borrow a second from Jesus College. Margaret Howatson, the senior tutor of St Anne's, says: "Our single law fellow has been extremely hard pressed. This appointment will be of enormous benefit to the college, enabling us to resume our intake of top-flight lawyers." The Oxford law faculty is introducing a new course in commercial law this year.

Britain is a country that claims to produce the best advocates in the world, yet it has a dismal record in international moots. In particular, no British team has ever won the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. The national administrator, Dr Rebecca Wallace, of the University of Strathclyde, hopes to change all that and has solicited substantial sponsorship. "I am working to raise the profile of the event within the UK," Dr Wallace says. "I hope to run the competition on American lines and hold it all under one roof for the first time." The competition is intended to promote international law and the skills of advocacy. It is open to teams of two to five students from law schools and international law-related graduate programmes. The moot problem is based on a dispute involving issues of anti-trust law and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The teams will have to present written memorials and oral pleadings for both sides of the problem. The British round will be held in Glasgow next February. The winners will go on to represent Britain in the international round in Washington DC.

SCRIVENOR

When you cannot use your own name

NEWSPAPERS have recently carried reports of a successful legal action in Britain by Gucci, the luxury goods company, which led to Paolo Gucci being ordered not to sell goods under his own name.

In some cases, an individual may not use his family name for business because he has sold the rights to the name. In others, it follows from the insolvency of a company that bore the founder's name. The case of Signor Gucci seems, however, to fall into a more general category, and one which has caused the courts much difficulty.

They have struggled to balance two competing principles: that an established business should not suf-

fer because others seek to divert trade by adopting a similar name, and that an individual has the right to conduct business under his own name.

Whenever a court has concluded that there has been artificiality, or fraud, in the adoption of a trading name, it has decided in favour of the existing business. But what should the court do when, for example, the defendant is the son of the plaintiff and wants to use the family name as the name of his business?

That was the situation in the 1853 *Burgess v. Granger* case. The judge decided that the son was not misrepresenting his goods as those of his father. He was just

stating the truth; that they were his own. Since then, there has been a trend away from the dogma of an individual's absolute right to use his own name.

It is now clear that, provided the plaintiff's name has become so closely associated with his goods or business and, in effect, become a trademark, any competitor who innocently uses his own name will be judged in the same way as any other third party.

No general principle on the rights of the individual will protect him and neither will he be able to shelter behind the theory that an honest trader will not be restrained from trading under his name, so matter

how confusing, provided that he does not apply it to the goods which he sells.

In the case of *Paolo Gucci*, the judge had been tempted to follow the decision of a United States court on the same issue. Under that judgment, Paolo Gucci had been permitted to use his own name, provided his goods bore a different trademark and a notice that they were not produced by the family company. However, because the judge concluded that Paolo Gucci had ignored those restrictions, he saw no point in imposing similar ones here.

CHRIS RYAN
© The author is a solicitor with Norton Rose.

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Deflated Benn counts cost

The exciting voice of life on the open air

You do not have to be a graduate to work for a local radio station, but you need persistence and, above all, a pleasant voice, Beryl Dixon reports

Local radio is based firmly in the community. "People wanting to work in local radio stations," the BBC's central appointments department says, "should be prepared to live among the community and have a keen interest in its affairs." They should be interested in community news, local government and events, disasters, schools, sports teams, business and industry and charities.

There are 32 BBC stations in England and the Channel Islands, and six more are opening in the near future. There are more than 100 independent local radio (ILR) stations, and the Radio Authority, which comes into being at the beginning of next year, will want to establish about 30 new stations every year for the foreseeable future. The two stations that make up Aire FM - Magic 828, in Leeds, are typical of local radio in that they have a precise target audience. They broadcast from the same building to a potential audience of 1.25 million people. Aire FM is a chart station, playing pop music for listeners in the 15-34 age bracket, interspersed with local information, two-minute news bulletins and competitions. Magic 828 plays golden oldies and produces

four-minute news bulletins. The age of presenters varies at each station.

Non-music programmes are geared to the local audience, Linda Larder, the production manager, says. "There is strong interest in sport in this area because we have Leeds United, rugby teams and Headingley cricket ground on the doorstep, so we are strong in sport reporting."

Like most local stations, Aire FM - Magic 828 produces programmes with a social message. The organisation won a Sony award in 1986 for the best children's programme of the year, *Say No to Strangers*, which had schools, police forces and social services departments telephoning to request copies. The two stations are now preparing a drugs awareness programme because "we know from the police that there is crack on the streets in some parts of the city". One station will start the approach towards parents, and the other will prefer to run interviews and warnings from pop stars.

What are the job opportunities in local radio? Behind the scenes are managers and policy-makers, heads of music, album librarians, engineers and technicians. In independent stations, there are also sales and advertising sections. Every station has a news department, which is made up of reporters and sub-editors. Their most vital skill is the ability to write to time. A news item cannot exceed the number of seconds it is allocated. As well as compiling bulletins, they may have to read them on air.

The programmes department is made up of producers, who are responsible for thinking up programme ideas, researching, tape-editing, presenting on air and operating studio equipment. They are aided by programme or production assistants - job titles vary. Everybody who goes on air must have a suitable microphone voice. There is a range of off-air staff, from marketing man-

agers to engineers. Technical operators work the more sophisticated equipment.

The backgrounds of programme staff vary. Although radio is fast filling up with graduates, people with degrees do not have automatic priority. Paul Farburn, the head of programmes at the Leeds stations, is a graduate, "but I spent a lot of vacation time working at a local station", while Mrs Larder (see profile) came up through the ranks.

Despite the increasing number of stations, getting a start is not easy. Persistence pays. Better still, approach a station and offer to work as a volunteer. Fetching and carrying, while showing a keen interest, can lead to a chance to work on programmes. Applications for jobs can be made to ILR and BBC stations. Anybody hoping to work on air should include a short demonstration tape.

The BBC runs a traineeship scheme lasting 20 months and designed to train people to work in the newsrooms of any of its local stations. This scheme is for new entrants only, not graduates of radio or other journalism courses.

Details are available from: the BBC appointments department, Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA.



Keeping in touch: at the radio station Linda Larder spends much of her time listening to other people's ideas

LINDA LARDER is the production manager at Aire FM - Magic 828. "Other stations might call me assistant programmes controller. Basically, I make sure that everything happens. I organise staff rotas, get scripts to studios, liaise between the station and the Independent Broadcasting Authority - oversee the entire management side."

Beginning her career as a secretary in a BBC station in Nottingham, she reached her present position through being a personal assistant to the production controller of Central Television and a secretary at the Leeds station. Her career has been fairly typical, she says. "If you are keen and do just that bit more than required, you can get a break. My first promotion here was to production assistant. That involved setting up outside

broadcasts, arranging interviews and doing all the programme administration. I first went on air when someone was ill, and an interview had to be done. I began to take over more production work, became a producer and finally reached my present level. "While I was working as a producer, I came up with the idea for the *Say No to*

Strangers programme and thoroughly enjoyed following it through. I wrote the script, did the music and interviewed my own children. "Now that I am production manager, I spend as much time listening to other people's ideas, but I still get on the air. Tonight, for instance, I am flying to Los Angeles to do some pop interviews that will be relayed back by satellite."

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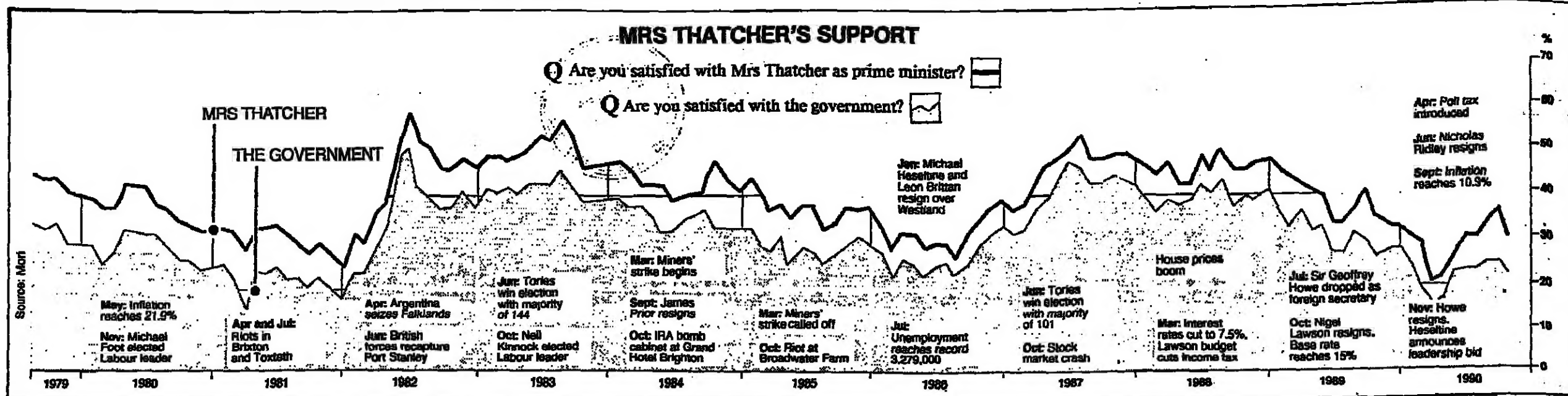
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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS
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Ups and downs of office: the fluctuations of Margaret Thatcher's popularity since 1979 as recorded in Mori polls — always more popular than her government but support has ebbed

Heseltine campaign exploited weakness in Thatcher's team

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

IN campaigning terms, a prime minister of 11 years' standing proved to have few advantages over a backbench challenger. The leadership contest marked the culmination of nearly five years' work by Michael Heseltine to establish himself as a favourite in the constituencies and apply his leverage to the MP electorate that way.

Mr Heseltine had not wanted to mount the challenge himself and risk the label of party splitter. He wanted a stalking horse. In the event no stalking horse emerged but it did not matter. The breakthrough was made for him by the thunderbolt of Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech. Mr Heseltine was able to argue from then that the tensions exposed in the party could be discharged only by a full and open challenge from a front-rank contender. Splitting the party never became a significant campaign issue.

His chief lieutenants were already in place in the shape of Michael Mates, the chairman of the defence select committee, and Keith Hampson, his former parliamentary private secretary, both of whom had worked closely with him for years. Prepared also were an old Oxford friend, the one-time frontbencher Sir Peter Tapsell, rated one of the most able Tories not to make the Thatcher government, and Sir Neil Macfarlane, former sports minister and golfing partner until last week to

Denis Thatcher. They acted as proposer and seconder.

The Heseltine campaign, masterminded from a couple of cluttered rooms on the sixth floor at 25 Victoria Street, had clearly been prepared in greater depth than that. Ready from the start to help out with radio and television media interviews and letters to the newspapers were a raft of helpers including Sir Peter Emery, John Lee and William Powell.

The prime minister's team had a more uncertain start, and for the group defending a sitting prime minister lacked punching power. Michael Jopling, the former chief whip, appeared in some doubt initially as to whether he would be leading a hand, so did the former cabinet minister Sir Norman Fowler, one of the key figures who will be needed to help unite the Conservatives after the contest. One of the workhorses of the Thatcher team was Gerry Neale, the MP for North Cornwall, who proved a ready link with the media.

Only Norman Tebbit, however, really punched his weight in public. Typically, he hijacked the press watchers outside Mr Heseltine's home for his own impromptu press conference. He was more helpful, however, in cementing the allegiance of the truly faithful than in winning back the waverers.

Initially the Thatcher camp, operating from a Westminster

office not far from the Commons and co-ordinating their efforts with Peter Morrison, Mrs Thatcher's PPS, had clearly decided that the best approach was for Mrs Thatcher to stay above the battle. They insisted that it would be business as usual. She had a government to run and a country to represent across the world.

Mr Heseltine seized the initiative with a bold opening. Although he was taking on a prime minister who had led her party to three successive election victories, he made what his team called "winability" the essential theme of his campaign. The successes of the Thatcher years — he was careful to pay tribute to her achievements — could best be safeguarded through the 1990s, he suggested, with him as leader. She was now too unpopular, he implied, for there to be any prospect of Tory recovery without a change of leader. Shrewdly he made the promise of a fundamental review of the poll tax.

As it became clear that Mr Heseltine was making ground, and as the opinion poll evidence stacked one way to show that the Conservatives would at least enjoy a significant honeymoon period with the voters if they were to swap Mrs Thatcher for Mr Heseltine, the Thatcher camp changed gear. The prime minister cut enough usual business to make herself available



Poster: A last-minute appeal outside Parliament by Mr Dennis Griffiths of London for Tory MPs to keep Mrs Thatcher at the helm and "vote for Britain"

for a number of interviews. In these she went on the attack.

First she began to talk of favouring a referendum on the single European currency. Secondly she went for Mr Heseltine as someone who espoused Labour policies and who would jeopardise all that she had stood for. Both lines appeared to prove counterproductive. Mr Heseltine was able to argue that it was a little strange for her to make that accusation about someone she had readily promoted in her

cabinet and who had been responsible for one of the biggest privatisations of all. Unofficial associates of the Heseltine camp, such as Sir Ian Gilmour, were able to talk of panic by the prime minister and her supporters. Mr Heseltine himself was able to score a potent point.

His cabinet walkout and the mace-swinging episode have forced him to endure ever since the taunts that he is headstrong and intemperate. Now, however, he was able to respond with calm dignity, saying that he would not make any personal comments about the prime minister and that it was important in these difficult days to remain ice cool.

As for the referendum, which cabinet colleagues had not been consulted, few ministers approved of a stratagem that she herself had dismissed

in the past as a tool of dictators and demagogues which would fetter the parliamentary sovereignty she is so keen to defend against the Eurocrats of Brussels. Keeping their nerve to the end, the Thatcher team members stuck all through to the insistence that they had enough votes assured for her to win on the first round. They did not seek, however, to play the bandwagon tactics adopted in 1975 by the Heath camp of insisting that the result was beyond all doubt. Their intelligence, they reckoned, was better than that of the opposition because they had had a dummy run the year before, seeing off the challenge by the stalking horse Sir Anthony Meyer.

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Poll swing followed downturn by Tories

By DAVID LIPSEY

ONE point has been established beyond doubt by Michael Heseltine's challenge: the polls are agreed that he would be a more potent vote-winner in an immediate election than Margaret Thatcher.

Since the campaign opened, eight national polls have compared the Tories' prospects were he leader with those under Mrs Thatcher. All give him an advantage. The latest, Gallup in *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday, shows that 28 per cent of voters would be more inclined to vote Conservative if Heseltine were leader. Only 7 per cent would be less inclined.

Six polls tested how people would vote nationwide if he were at the helm, all showing that the Conservatives would fare better. Five said that under his leadership, the Conservatives would lead Labour by between 1 and 10 percentage points.

However, Mrs Thatcher's supporters can argue that this is a temporary phenomenon. The opinion poll evidence on this is slim, but what there is suggests that the public has turned only quite recently against voting for the prime minister. Mori for *The Sunday Times* asked in September 1989 which of various possible candidates would do the best job of leading the Conservative party into the next general election. Mrs Thatcher comfortably topped the poll. Of those questioned, 32 per cent put her first. Michael Heseltine came second with 22 per cent. The subsequent slump in Conservative fortunes changed the picture. By March 1990, only 15 per cent rated her the best leader, while Heseltine scored 40 per cent.

Further back, Mori for *The Economist* found in July 1986 that 11 per cent would be more likely to vote Conservative if she were replaced, compared with the 28 per cent reported in this week's Gallup poll.

Battle may be last of its kind

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SERVING Conservative prime minister may never again have to face the sort of challenge laid down to Margaret Thatcher by Michael Heseltine. Yesterday's contest is likely to be the last under present rules.

As the party has torn itself apart over the last fortnight, the view expressed by senior MPs and members of the cabinet has been: never again. When the dust has settled, the executive of the 1922 committee is expected to draw up rules that will prevent a Conservative prime minister having to face an automatic annual leadership election. It has been argued that the system introduced in 1965 by Alec Douglas-Home (now Lord Home) was never intended to be used like this: potentially to oust a serving prime minister with a 100-seat majority.

Conservative MPs, however, are jealous of their rights and will be anxious to ensure that they do not lose altogether their ability to vote out a leader who has strayed. The complex rules which require a first-ballot winner to gain a majority of all MPs entitled to vote, in addition to a 15 per cent lead, were introduced by Lord Home in response to a widespread demand by his parliamentary colleagues for an end to the "magic circle", under which the Tory leader emerged as a result of consultations between party grandees. Lord Home was the last beneficiary.

Humphrey Berkeley, Conservative MP at the time, has been credited with advising Lord Home on the rules. Apparently the 15 per cent figure was plucked out of the air and it was never suggested that there should be annual elections.

That change came in 1974 amid widespread party dissatisfaction at two successive general election defeats and it was triggered in the 1975 contest which saw Margaret Thatcher replace Edward Heath.

Ironically, until last year when Sir Anthony Meyer emerged as the most unlikely of stalking-horses to challenge Mrs Thatcher, it had not been used at all. Mrs Thatcher had served ten years as prime minister without being challenged.

Now senior party figures are arguing that it was never intended for a period when the party was in government.

Radical changes will be considered. One possibility is that leadership elections should be suspended while the party is in government. Another is that it should be made much more difficult to force a contest.

Among ideas being floated by members of the 1922 executive was ending automatic annual elections while in government. However, in order to protect the rights of MPs, a poll could be triggered if a large number of MPs, say 50, was prepared publicly to nominate a challenger.

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What they said and when

THE following are a selection of key quotations made just before Michael Heseltine's challenge to Margaret Thatcher for the Conservative party leadership or during the campaign itself.

"I've made my position clear. I think Mrs Thatcher will lead the Conservative party in the next general election and win it. I've said it so often I'm embarrassed to repeat it."

Michael Heseltine (Nov 6)
"The Advertiser, The Banger and The Joker. We list five MPs who are either actively helping Michael Heseltine in his takeover campaign or are members of Taran's fan club. And a rum bunch they are too."

The Sun (Nov 13)
"The time has come for others to consider their own response to the tragic conflict of loyalties with which I have myself wrestled for perhaps too long."

Sir Geoffrey Howe (Nov 13)
"Goodness, I nearly drove off the road. Geoffrey is usually

such a polite man."

Aame Heseltine (Nov 15)
"After three general election victories, leading the only party with clear policies resolutely carried out, I intend to continue."

Margaret Thatcher (Nov 15)
"You cannot get into a position where you say, 'I am going to support somebody for the leadership this week but

not next and that my support runs out on Tuesday'."

Douglas Hurd (Nov 16)
"I would not rule out a referendum. My views on referendums are really quite simple: I think you should only hold them on constitutional issues."

Margaret Thatcher (Nov 18)
"I am not very attracted to referendums. I think this is precisely the sort of issue that Members are sent to Parliament to make decisions about."

Cecil Parkinson (Nov 18)
"If you read Michael Heseltine's book, you will find it more akin to some of the Labour party policies: intervention, corporatism, everything that pulled us down."

Margaret Thatcher (Nov 19)
"The last thing any of them ever said when inviting me to address their activists or to appear at by-elections on behalf of my party was, 'Michael, we think really you're a socialist'."

Michael Heseltine (Nov 20).



Parkinson: "I am not very attracted to referendums"

Europe: the issue that won't go away

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

EUROPE will continue to divide the Tory party, whoever is leader. It has been the thread woven inextricably through most of the party's troubles during the past year.

Though they are divisions that would show far less if the economy were in good order and the opinion polls showed a Conservative lead, the party is divided essentially on the pace at which Britain should integrate with its European Community partners.

Differences over entry to the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system led to Nigel Lawson's departure from the Thatcher cabinet: Nicholas Ridley was forced to resign over his attack on Brussels Eurocrats and German ambitions in Europe; and, if there was a trigger

moment that set off the challenge to Margaret Thatcher's leadership by Michael Heseltine it was her incautious remarks in telling the Commons that she did not think that the hard currency promoted by the Chancellor would become widely used.

That action, as well as her sharp language in condemning the Rome summit's surprise decision to set a date for the next stages of economic and monetary union, led to Sir Geoffrey Howe's decision to leave the cabinet, and his resignation speech provided the cloak of respectability for the Heseltine challenge.

Mrs Thatcher's disparaging remarks about the hard currency and her scornful remarks about the way in which monetary union was being used to force Britain into federalism by the back door brought to a

head Tory unease over European issues and worries about the prime minister's style of cabinet government.

The hard currency had the backing of Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who wants to avoid Britain being put in the position of having to choose one lane in a two-lane Europe, and of John Major, the Chancellor. The plan has few supporters in Europe, however, and the British government must look serious about it if it is to win any more. To the chagrin of the ministers on the Treasury bench, Mrs Thatcher had dealt its prospects a mighty blow.

To Sir Geoffrey it was the last straw, the worst example yet of Mrs Thatcher's tendency to agree a line in cabinet and then to go off and do her own thing. To Tories who are prepared to pool some of

Britain's sovereignty to gain the advantages of club membership, it was a sign that she belonged with the hardline Euro-sceptics and not with the party mainstream.

Mr Heseltine has been able to exploit those worries. So, too, have other cabinet members with their increasingly blatant warnings that Mrs Thatcher will have to make more effort in future to stick to an agreed policy on Europe. Hence Mr Hurd's assertion that the government does not have to frighten itself with "ogres" and that "when this contest is over the prime minister and the cabinet will want to consider how to draw the threads of our policy on Europe together unmistakably and rally the party and the country behind us". That is not the kind of pressure she is used to giving in to gracefully.

Europe
tax turn
to open

Time
to show

Hurd: a sense
duty and hist